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(GEM Series). Audited by David Pinder & Co Ltd. Chartered Accountants.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 2ND, 2012

CROESO I'R EISTEDDFOD!

The eagerly-awaited National Eisteddfod starts this Saturday at Llandow!

For the latest news, please go to page 14. On page 19, the First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM, explains why the event is so important to the Welsh nation.

Go online for GEM Sports Extra - your round-up of sport in and around the Vale

Police hunt sex assault suspect

POLICE are appealing for information, following reports of a sexual assault in Sully, which is alleged to have taken place in the early hours of Monday, June 25.

Police say a 22-year-old woman was assaulted by an unknown male at around 4am after they were dropped off by a taxi at Island View Caravan Park in the village.

A spokeswoman said: "Officers are keen to speak to the taxi driver who took the man and woman to the caravan park.

"It is believed the fare originated in Cardiff city centre, possibly in Churchill Way, and then went on to Adamsdown, before continuing to Sully.

"The male suspect is thought to have spoken with a strong foreign accent – possibly Italian."

Anyone with information is urged to contact Barry CID on 01446 731 606, or Crimestoppers (free) on 0800 555 111.

LEFT: The group of hardy marathon walkers, who raised £7,350 for the Ty Hafan children's hospice at Sully, in memory of baby Noah.

A marathon walk for Noah raises £7,350 for the children's hospice

A BARRY optometrist, and her friends and family, have helped to raise more than £7,000 for Ty Hafan – in memory of her cousin's baby grandson, Noah, who died in his mother's arms just before Christmas.

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

Annette Dobbs, who revealed in The GEM in May that a group of people would be walking the Pembrokeshire path in west Wales, on behalf of the Sully-based children's hospice, said: "The group was able to raise an amazing £7,350.

"We were absolutely delighted to raise funds for this exceptional charity and I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who supported us."

The walk started at Newgale beach and ended at The Sloop Inn, Porthgain.

The group consisted of people from the Vale, Cardiff and even parts of England.

Annette explained: "We walked the 26.2 miles in 11 hours. The thought of walking that far was daunting, but we had a great day on the coastal path.

"The weather was perfect for walking and, apart from a few blisters, we made it unscathed – although we were very pleased to see The Sloop at Porthgain at the end of our journey!"

Foremost in the minds of the walkers was Noah, who was born in February 2011 with a very serious brain injury. Although the first few weeks of his life were touch and go, he possessed a fighting spirit and was able to go home to live with his parents, Hywel and Colleen Tyler.

Noah then experienced a life-threatening episode and deterioration, and the family decided he would be best cared for at the Sully-based hospice. Annette said: "Ty Hafan looked after Noah and the whole family. They were wonderful, providing medical and pastoral care."

In October 2011, the staff threw an early first birthday party for Noah. He died a few weeks later, just before Christmas, in his mother's arms.

Noah will never be forgotten by his family and his 'finger art' adorns the hospice walls.

Tracy Jones, a family support practitioner at Ty Hafan, told The GEM the hospice was thrilled with the support of the group of marathon walkers.

"On behalf of all the children, young people and their families who use Ty Hafan, I would like to thank Annette for organising the walk and for raising an incredible amount of money for the hospice.

"Without doubt, the families who use our services will benefit from the fundraising done in memory of an incredible little boy and his family," Tracy added.

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'Dismayed' by the decline of airport

MY wife and I are dismayed by the decline of Cardiff Airport, and feel strongly that more should be done by the Welsh Assembly to reverse the trend.

(I refer to the report on Cardiff Airport, in last week's GEM, July 19).

We moved to Llantwit Major in 2010 from Hertfordshire and a consideration of living here, was to be near an airport that we could travel from.

We regularly fly to Malaga in Spain and before moving here we normally used Luton Airport. The difference in passenger numbers is astounding. For the year 2011, Cardiff was 1.22 million, and Luton 9.5 million. Even Bristol attracted 5.78 million passengers last year.

There are some similarities between Luton and Cardiff Airports. Neither has a direct rail link and both are run by the same Spanish consortium. I accept the population in the south-east of England is large, but there are numerous airports serving the area and competition is strong.

In Wales, we only have one airport. The road and rail link is similar to Luton Airport, so why are Cardiff Airport passenger numbers in the decline?

Well, it all comes down to the price we, as passengers, have to pay and the choice we have.

Quite simply, flying out of Cardiff is too expensive.

I know many people here in the Vale choose Bristol as an alternative, and we may drive all the way back to Luton next time we go to Malaga.

We, like all those other people, would prefer to use Rhoose if we could, and it is about time the Assembly supported Cardiff Airport.

We need to attract more low-cost airlines, which would then create the competition to drive down prices and increase the passenger numbers.

Next month, a new Spanish operator – Vueling Airlines – is flying out of Cardiff (unfortunately, not Malaga, so complain to Vueling like I did!)

This, hopefully, is a start to turning around the decline of Cardiff Airport.

If it were ever to close, this would be catastrophic for Cardiff and the whole of Wales.

Having a busy and vibrant airport, would bring in many visitors and would greatly boost the economy and employment.

David and Anne Watson
Llantwit Major

Bravo, Friends!

CONGRATULATIONS to Friends of Barry Beach: it was a delight on a blowy but sunny Sunday, to see a mass of yellow safety-jacketed volunteers picking litter along the Knap.

I am a Penarth beach warden and I salute you. Keep up the good work!

Stewart Ward,
Penarth beach warden.

Bus depot reunion

TWENTY years ago this month, the Barry bus depot of National Welsh closed and a reunion is to be held at the Barry West End Labour Club on August 8.

With the co-operation of the Cardiff Transport Preservation Group, former employees are invited to meet at the Broad Street depot at 6pm. where they can look around their old stomping ground.

There, they can see the restoration of the old buses and view the group's collection of memorabilia. It has been arranged that a 1966 Western Welsh Tiger Cub will transport them to the club and return later to take them near their homes (main roads only) or back to the depot.

Viv Corbin, Barry

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'SORRY FOR THE UNPLEASANT ODOUR IN TOWN'

WE would like to apologise for inadvertently creating an unpleasant odour on the western side of Cowbridge on Saturday, July 28.

We were spreading matured – all locally sourced green and food waste – compost on the Llantwit Road field and were unable to incorporate it into the soil on that day, due to having simultaneouslyto gather in all the hay on the farm before the weather broke. In retrospect, we realise this was unfair on local residents and promise that whenever compost is spread near town, it will be incorporated within 12 hours maximum, unless impossible due to weather conditions.

Once the winter wheat comes off the Darren Field, on the left of the A48, at the end of the month, we will be spreading there and will be turning it underground straight away.

Again, we had no wish to cause the upset we did, which I personally was well aware of, as I was attending a party in the affected zone that evening.

John Homfray,
Cowbridge.

Penalty notices move welcomed

IT was very pleasing to read the positive comments by Coun Rob Curtis regarding the Vale Council's use of a private company XFOR to impose fixed penalty notices for dog fouling and littering.

Pleasing, because the decision to use XFOR was taken by the Conservative cabinet on March 14 this year.

Conservative members recognised that this is an important issue and that is why we took the decision to introduce this enforcement measure, which has been used successfully elsewhere.

It is also pleasing to see that the Labour/Llantwit First coalition is continuing with the Conservative plans to improve the council's housing stock.

Gordon Kemp,
Rhoose.

How The GEM kept me in touch with the news from home!

I RECENTLY travelled to Serbska Republika (Serbia) for a meeting with colleagues, and to while away a few night-time hours, I took with me a few back, unread copies of The GEM to catch up on the local news.

In The GEM of June 14, a front page article headed, 'consortium provides an £8 million boost for Barry' by Tim Chapman, extols the marvellous future for the Barry Waterfront, with an investment of £230 million and the said £8 million for local road improvements, a new primary school. Magnificent!

The final paragraph is both telling and mysterious. It reads: "*Up to 300 affordable homes will also be built as part of the scheme*."

This raises a few questions: 'Up to 300' means how many? 10? 20? 299? And, who defines 'affordable' and what does it mean? Affordable to whom? It is also reported that a sales centre 'should' be open in around 12 months time. ie. by June 2013 – and house building is set to start next spring (ie. 2013) and depending on market conditions, will go on for a decade.

Forgive me, I am a lawyer and look at this forensically. The implication here is that it may not happen: It is dependant on those 'market conditions' *ipso facto, so* must be the 'affordable housing, etc.

So much happens so quickly now, with the erosion of the Euro, etc. Will capitalism as we know it, the EU even, survive? Will Fascism and/or Communism make a comeback?

Who knows who will be able to afford the 'affordable housing'. I look forward to finding out.

Christopher Short, Barry.
(Independent candidate, Buttrills ward, Barry Town Council)

TO SING, OR NOT TO SING?
(that is the question)

THERE has been a lot of criticism of late, thrown at Welsh Olympic footballers Ryan Giggs, Craig Bellamy, etc, for not singing the UK National Anthem.

Haven't these people got better things to moan about?

Why should the players sing this anthem? All it does is glorify the Queen by asking God to save her.

The main point is that these athletes are representing Britain, not the Queen.

D J Radford,
Barry.

'Stop trying to run our village for free!'

I AM a resident of Rhoose who is NOT content with the service provided by the Vale Council, and I would vote for the restoration of the community council, funded by the precept.

The precept is the best means of raising money for reinvestment in Rhoose for the benefit of the people of Rhoose.

A community council is the best way of attracting additional funding for an area, especially when every other community council is competing for the same money.

If dissolving community councils to avoid the precept was such a good idea, why have the residents of Barry, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, Penarth, St Athan, Wenvoe and Wick not taken the opportunity to do so?

Only the '*Penny Wise, Pound Foolish*' people of Rhoose did that, and we have got what we paid for.

Should Coun Clarke need an example of what can go wrong without dedicated, accountable local scrutiny, I suggest he takes a stroll around Rhoose Point.

Start where the sports field should be – it is the large space with no pitch, no changing rooms, no goal posts and no safe pedestrian access...

From there, he could then search for the golf course, the public house, and the nature reserve information centre.

Without a community council, Rhoose is a developers' dream.

The sooner the residents of Rhoose abandon the experiment of attempting to run our village for free, based on what the rest of the Vale thinks is best for us, the better.

I would sooner spend 15 pence a day supporting the work of directly-elected local councillors, than continue to fund the empty bus to the airport.

Andrew Bailey,
Rhoose.

BUS SHELTERS IN A SORRY STATE...

CARDIFF bus shelters look clean and very well maintained, as opposed to those in the Vale, which are covered in green mould and in a disgusting state.

With the forthcoming Eisteddfod and the current Olympics, could they possibly be cleaned up?

The ones at Culverhouse Cross, opposite a hotel which many visitors to Cardiff probably use, are particularly bad.

Much money seems to have been spent recently on kerbs, making them more accessible, but they don't seem to have been cleaned.

If the Vale Council can't keep them clean (despite Cardiff seemingly able to do so) perhaps local communities/schools/nearby supermarkets could 'adopt' their local shelter and keep it clean.

Whatever happened to civic pride?

I am quite ashamed each time I use or pass one – and this is not a new problem – I have been in touch with the Vale Council before about it.

Jane Hydon,
Llanblethian.

... BUT NOT IN YSTRADOWEN!

ABOVE:
Betty Leaver, who waters the colourful display at the spotless bus shelter in Ystradowen – the Best Kept Village in the Vale.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL AUGUST 9)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
02 Thur	07.11	9.8	19.36	10.0
03 Fri	07.59	9.9	20.19	10.2
04 Sat	08.41	9.9	21.00	10.1
05 Sun	09.18	9.8	21.37	9.8
06 Mon	09.55	9.5	22.11	9.4
07 Tues	10.27	9.2	22.46	9.1
08 Wed	11.02	8.7	23.17	8.6
09 Thur	11.36	8.2	23.54	8.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by NWN Ltd.
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Barry girl to cycle 400km in memory of family friend

ABOVE: Iris King, a close friend, whose death inspired Gemma's ride.

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

MOST families know what it is like to lose somebody to a terminal illness, and when Barry girl Gemma Clowes lost a close family friend, Iris King (85) to cancer late last year, it was the last straw.

The 28-year-old decided to do what she could to help other sufferers and will cycle 400km over five days across Kenya next year to raise money for charity.

She told The GEM: "Iris was like a grandmother to me, she had known me since I was six months old. It is still pretty raw and I miss her every day.

"I've lost a fair few family and friends to cancer, and it has taken so many people away from me that I want to fight back."

The fundraising began on the day Iris passed away, when Gemma had the majority of her long hair cut off to donate to the Little Princess Trust, which supplies wigs to young children who are losing their hair during cancer treatment.

Now she wants to do even more, so has signed up for the *Action for Charity, Women v Cancer Cycle Kenya* event through the Rift Valley from June 15-24, 2013.

With a minimum sponsorship target of £2,900, Gemma knows she faces a difficult challenge over the next 11 months to hit that target and raise money for Breast Cancer Care, Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and Ovarian Cancer Action.

She has received help from Slimming World, in whose meetings she first spotted the event, and her colleagues on the night shift at the Royal Mail, to get the ball rolling.

"My colleagues on the night shift alone donated £130, which is a fantastic start. It is reassuring that people are there to help you, especially my mail centre manager, Rhian Edwards – they've put me in their newsletter on the external Royal Mail site to gain interest.

"I'm now training on a bike I bought, that should help me with my fitness!"

Gemma has events planned to raise awareness, including a charity car boot sale, while she has set up a fundraising web page at: *www.justgiving.com/gemma-clowes*, where you can donate directly.

"If everyone donated 50p, the cost of a bar of chocolate, it could make a real difference. I understand nobody can fight the world, but with everyone's help, it can make a difference."

ABOVE: Gemma is set to cycle across Kenya for a cancer charity next June.

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Lifeguard praised for daring double rescue near rocks

by TIM CHAPMAN

A BARRY woman contacted The GEM to congratulate a Whitmore Bay lifeguard who rescued a mother and child who were in danger of being swept out to sea on an inflatable boat last Friday, July 27.

Carole Williams and her husband, Colin, make regular trips down to the beach, and enjoy walking along the coastline.

Carole said: "We like to go down to Marco's Cafe and go for a walk, and we were going round the point as the rescue took place.

"I'd like to congratulate the wonderful lifeguard who rescued the mother and child.

"They were in a small inflatable boat that was pulled out by the tide and were dangerously close to the rocks at the eastern end of the bay (Nell's Point).

"The lifeguard paddled out on his surfboard, attached the inflatable to it and pulled them to safety.

"He accomplished this despite the fact that the people in the boat were, unwittingly, paddling in the wrong direction, as he was trying to pull them in!

"The mother fell into the sea, so the lifeguard had to manoeuvre her onto his surfboard as she couldn't get back into the boat."

But that wasn't the end of the drama, as Carole explained: "The inflatable, containing one very frightened child, became detached from the surfboard at one stage and was heading back towards the rocks!

"The lifeguard did a fantastic job to save them both.

"We managed to have a word with him and said – '*you did such a good job*' – but then he had to rush off It was a very busy day last Friday!"

Crisis Foodbank for needy in Vale

ON Saturday, August 4, Tesco on Stirling Road, Barry, welcomes volunteers from the Vale Foodbank

They will be collecting all kinds of non-perishable food from the public to feed local people in crisis.

"Our stock of food is currently low because of the very high number of people we have supported (double that originally anticipated) so we really need local citizens to give what they can to help," said Susan Lloyd-Selby, the Vale foodbank coordinator.

"Many of those we support are struggling with low income or debt. Our last collection in Tesco saw a record-breaking 891 kg food donated and we are hoping to do even better this time."

Volunteers will be at Tesco, Stirling Road, in Barry from 9.30am to 5pm.

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Gladstone Primary waves goodbye to year-6 with tears and plenty of laughter

THE year-6 children at Gladstone Primary School performed their leavers' concert in front of their parents last Tuesday and the school hall was filled with both laughter and tears.

The children entertained the audience with two sketches – a unique take on BBC talent show 'The Voice'. and a 'What really goes on in the staffroom!' sketch.

They made their parents laugh with their favourite memories, cringe with some embarrassing stories and then cry as they took turns to say their thank yous, finishing with their aspirations for the future and a rousing rendition of Queen's 'Don't Stop Me Now'.

The children continued their celebrations the next night as they sipped 'mocktails' in the school gardens during a special cocktail party before their leavers' disco.

The staff at Gladstone would like to wish all of our year-6 children the best of luck in their new schools and remember to keep in touch!

For more information contact Helen Reilly on 07989 411206.

ABOVE: Judges and presenters from 'The Voice'.

'DON'T HOLD PICNICS IN KNAP PARKING SPACES'

Barry resident's appeal for 'courtesy'

by TIM CHAPMAN

A BARRY resident has appealed to older drivers not to hold picnics in parking spots at The Knap!

Mr Stewart Francis contacted The GEM to say he was delighted that the Vale Council would not be erecting pay and display machines at the Knap.

However, he added: "Perhaps the Vale could do something to curb the anti-social behaviour exhibited – I am ashamed to say – by drivers of my age, which is 60 plus, when they park."

Mr Francis, who likes to visit The Knap when the weather is pleasant, explained: "On a fine day, it can be difficult to find a parking space, and this is exacerbated by some people who park and are too lazy to walk some 20 feet to the pebbles, to put down their picnic chairs and table.

"Instead, they plonk them down on a parking space next to their vehicle and deny another motorist the use of a spot.

"Surely, the idea should be for as many people to enjoy the area as possible?."

In the past, there have been complaints about the lack of consideration demonstrated by the younger generation, who have been accused of driving too quickly along the front; but Mr Francis claimed that when it came to manners and the picnics, the attitude of the older generation left a lot to be desired.

He claimed: "When politely asked to free up the space and to put their stuff on the pebbles, you're met with '*I've paid my council tax*' or '*Tough, go somewhere else*'.

"If these were youngsters those people would have plenty to say."

Mr Francis claimed that such selfishness meant that on busy days, some people missed out on a place to park, and had to turn back.

"There is at least one individual who constantly parks his mobile home lengthways, taking up four parking spaces. He then proceeds to set up a table and chairs on another space, so five spaces in total are taken. Why should this be tolerated?

"If the Vale is not prepared to police the situation, perhaps the only effective way to curb this selfish, anti-social behaviour is to install pay and display machines.

"At least it would ensure 100 per cent occupancy of spaces by vehicles and not individuals' picnic paraphernalia."

Surprisingly, the Vale Council doesn't object to the practice of picnics in parking spots.

Miles Punter, director of visible services and housing, explained: "While the Knap Terrace car park area is designed primarily as a 'car park', the use of adjacent parking bays by motorists who wish to picnic is not discouraged, provided they do so in a safe and courteous manner.

"Many elderly motorists, in particular, have difficulty in accessing the pebble beach areas and if they wish to set up a small table and some chairs in a sensible fashion in an adjacent bay to their cars, this can allow them to still enjoy the amenity offered by the excellent seaside location."

Mr Punter added that officers would be keeping an eye on parking areas.

"We would hope that at peak times, a balance can be maintained between parking and other safe uses for the area; and, therefore, we have no plans at this time to introduce any further parking or land-use controls at this location.

"My officers will however keep this matter under review."

New chair impressed by Barry Hospital

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM, Maria Battle and Coun Stuart Egan are pictured at the Barry Community Hospital.

THE new Chair of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Maria Battle, visited the Barry Community Hospital recently, and was accompanied on her tour by Jane Hutt AM and Coun Stuart Egan, Vale Council cabinet member, who also sits on the health board.

They visited the community dentistry department, community resource centre, the wards and day hospital, as well as the pharmacy, phlebotomy, X-ray department, out patients and the minor injuries unit.

Ms Hutt AM said: "We were delighted with Maria Battle's visit to the hospital.

She was impressed with the wide range of facilities available and the care, dedication and expertise of the staff she met across all these key health services.

"Following our meeting about the minor injuries unit, we spent time meeting staff, talked to patients who were using the service, and discussed plans for re-opening the service for the full day as before."

Lido was 'a jewel in crown'

IT was with both great sadness and joy that I heard Rhondda Cynon Taff Council have decided to spend a few million pounds on the refurbishment of the outdoor lido swimming facility at Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd.

My joy is due to the fact that someone on RCT Council has the presence of mind to reinstate this wonderful outdoor activity for future generations, rather than watch our younger generations stagnate in the presence of all the new fangled technology of PC, TV and internet generated stay-at-home activities that really and truly starve today's youth of the pleasures of outdoor fun.

My sadness, however, is targeted at the way in which the Vale Council saw fit to treat a similar facility, known as The Knap Lido at Cold Knap and Lakeside here in my adopted home town of Barry. The Vale allowed this facility to rot and decay prior to and after its forced closure in 1996.

It was once the jewel in the crown of Barry.

Sadly, our Lido in Barry is no more, as is our cinema and many other attractions – left to rot and decay – with no forethought or insight, other than to induce more apathy among taxpayers in the Vale.

Barrie V Evans,
Independent coordinator, Barry First group.

Artists at work

VISITORS to the Windsor Road Church, Barry, tomorrow (Friday, August 3) are invited to meet the members of the BARUC art group, view a display of their paintings.

The group was established in 1974 and continues to be a popular club for amateur artists.

Their annual exhibition of more than 100 paintings will be held on August 17-18.

A percentage from sales will be going to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Admission is free to both events.

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All Saints mark the end of another year!

Members of All Saints 12+ group receiving their books from Coun Neil Thomas, Deputy Mayor of Penarth.

ON Sunday July 22, Coun Neil Thomas, Deputy Mayor of Penarth, attended a family service at All Saints Church, Victoria Square, to present prizes to members of the Sunday School and youth group.

Each of the youngsters received a Christian book to mark the end of another school year.

The Sunday School currently has 30 members aged three-11 and meets in the church meeting room during the 10 o'clock service each week, including school holidays.

The youth group, known as '12+', has 14 members and over and meets in the Lesser Hall during the 10 o'clock service each week during term time.

New members are always welcome, whether on a regular or occasional basis.

After the service, more than 100 members of the congregation, plus visitors, enjoyed a barbecue in the square, with a bouncy castle, a licensed bar and other attractions. A great time was had by all and more than £400 was raised for the church re-ordering fund.

Mel Griffin
Churchwarden

Barry cadets face a gruelling test on patrol in the Beacons

RIGHT:
Cadet Sean Hodges receives his Cambrian Patrol medal.

RECENTLY, Cadet Sean Hodges, from 372 (Barry) Squadron, travelled to the Brecon Beacons for a weekend of adventurous patrolling and field craft.

The Cambrian Patrol is an arduous competition and concentrates on leadership, teamwork, physical fitness and achieving the mission.

It was first set up more than 40 years ago by a group of Welsh Territorial Army soldiers who designed the training event to feature long distance marching over the Cambrian Mountains, and which culminated in a shooting match on the Sennybridge training area. Since then, the exercise has been rigorously updated to meet the challenges faced by modern soldiers.

The weekend consisted of: battle procedure, orders, Infiltration/route selection, target reconnaissance, support to friendly forces, battlefield drills and debriefing.

On arrival, the cadets' kit was inspected to ensure they were properly equipped for the exercises and were issued with their orders.

Cadet Sean Hodges said: "It was really cool. I never thought I would last the weekend as it was so intensive, but it was amazing."

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron have vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. They parade on Mondays and Wednesdays, 7pm-9.30pm, behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall). Phone 01446 747734 or email: 372@aircadets.org for more information.

St Andrews gains coveted ICT Mark

ABOVE:
Pupils at St Andrews have been using ICT to prepare them for the modern world.

CHILDREN at St Andrews Major CW Primary School in Dinas Powys are at the forefront of using information and communications technology (ICT) to enhance their work.

Following an extensive external assessment, St Andrews has been awarded the prestigious ICT Mark, that recognises the school's success in developing the strategic use of ICT in both administration and across the curriculum.

Headteacher, Mrs S Jordan, said: "On behalf of St Andrews School, I am delighted to be awarded the ICT Mark. It recognises our positive approach to ICT and the benefits it is bringing to our children.

"We believe that ICT can be used in every aspect of learning and that it is essential our children are equipped for the modern world."

JG

Pupils celebrate relay success!

PUPILS at Rhws Primary School celebrated crossing the finish line of their very own 4,000-kilometre Olympic-themed sponsored run, which started on May 21.

To highlight their achievement, they welcomed a VIP to a special school assembly last week – Olympic torchbearer Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, and the torch she carried through Barry on May 26.

During their PE lessons, every pupil learned about the Olympic games and helped raise funds for much-needed outdoor play equipment for their school.

Using a 500-metre course marked out within the school grounds, pupils collectively completed a total of 8,000 laps over a period of eight weeks, which represented a 4,000 kilometre distance from Olympia (Greece) where the games originated, to the London venue, but via Rhoose!

The "virtual" route passed through Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Belgium, France, England and Wales. It was visualised on a large wall display in the school hall. Each pupil received a personalised certificate to confirm the distance they completed.

Earlier this year, the course was successfully tested when pupils raised an amazing £3,500 for Sport Relief by running a sponsored kilometre for the charity.

JL

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACES AND AMENDMENT (BARRY) (NO 1) ORDER 2012

1. Notice is given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under sections 45, 46 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and pursuant to Part IV of Schedule 9 and of all other enabling powers proposes to make an Order, the general effect of which is to install the disabled persons parking places at the locations specified in Schedule 1 and amend the disabled persons parking places at the locations specified in Schedule 2 below.

2. Full details of the proposals, may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objections you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Head of Visible Services Ref.IF679&687) in writing by 24th August 2012 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

3. Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

SCHEDULE 1

Proposed Disabled Persons Parking Place

Quarella Street, Barry

On its south east side from a point approximately 70 metres south west of its junction with Main Street, for a distance of 6.6 metres south west.

SCHEDULE 2

The following Traffic Regulation Orders to be amended as follows:

The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Various Locations Barry and Penarth) (Disabled Persons Parking Places) Order 2007

Delete the following paragraph from the Schedule:

Kathleen Street, Barry

On its south western side from a point approximately 77 metres north west of its junction with the north western side of Park Crescent, north westwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Barry and Penarth) (Disabled Persons Parking Places) Order 2009

Delete the following paragraph from the Schedule:

Brook Street, Barry

On its south west side from a point 52 metres north west of its junction with Holton

Road for a distance of 6.6 metres north west.

Dated this 2nd day of August 2012

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Wenvoe. CF5 6AA

GORCHYMYN A GWELLIANT CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (1) 2012

MANNAU PARCIO AR GYFER POBL ANABL (Y BARRI)

1. Hysbysir trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan adrannau 45, 46 a 53 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddiwygiedig), ac yn unol â Rhan IV Atodlen 9, a phob p_er galluogi arall, yn gwneud y Gorchymyn canlynol. Diben cyffredinol y Gorchymyn fydd darparu mannau parcio ar gyfer pobl anabl yn y lleoedd a nodwyd yn Atodlen 1 a gwella'r mannau parcio ar gyfer pobl anabl yn y lleoedd a nodwyd yn Atodlen 2 isod.

2. Cewch weld y cynigion yn llawn yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, ac os oes gennych wrthwynebiad i'r cynnig hwn, dylech anfon llythyr at Bennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy (Cyf. IF679 a 687) erbyn 24 Awst 2012, gan egluro eich rhesymau am hynny.

3. Os oes gennych wrthwynebiad i'r Gorchymyn, cofiwch fod gan y cyhoedd hawl o dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol (Hawl i Wybodaeth) 1985 i weld unrhyw sylwadau sy'n cael eu gwneud, a bod dyletswydd gyfreithiol ar y cyngor i ddarparu ar gyfer hynny.

ATOLDEN 1

Mannau Parcio a gynigir ar gyfer Pobl Anabl

Quarella Street, Y Barri

Ar ei hochr dde-ddwyreiniol o fan sydd oddeutu 70 medr i'r de orllewin o'i chyffordd â Main Street, am 6.6 medr i gyfeiriad y de orllewin.

ATOLDEN 2

Diwygier y Gorchmynion Rheoli Traffig isod fel y canlyn:

Gorchymyn (Mannau Parcio i Bobl Anabl) (Lleoliadau Amrywiol yn Y Barri a Phenarth) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2007

Dilëir y paragraff canlynol o'r Atodlen:

Kathleen Street, Y Barri

Ar ei hochr dde-orllewinol o fan sydd oddeutu 77 medr i'r gogledd orllewin o'i chyffordd ag ochr ogledd-orllewinol Park Crescent, am 6.6 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd orllewin.

Gorchymyn (Mannau Parcio i Bobl Anabl) (Y Barri a Phenarth) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2009

Dilëir y paragraff canlynol o'r Atodlen:

Brook Street, Y Barri

Ar ei hochr dde-orllewinol o fan sydd oddeutu 52 medr i'r gogledd orllewin o'i chyffordd â Holton Road am 6.6 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd orllewin.

Dated this 2nd day of August 2012

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Wenvoe. CF5 6AA

People were quick to make the most of the recent hot spell by enjoying the delights of Barry Island, including these young women women - turn to page 15 for more pictures.

There is so much to 'inspire' in the Vale of Glamorgan!

IT was a great boost to the Barry Amateur Radio Society when they were awarded the licence to transmit from Barry Island Promenade during the Olympic season, winning the *'Inspire Mark Programme*,' which recognises outstanding projects inspired by London 2012.

I was delighted to support their Lottery bid which was successful, enabling them to provide a radio station from July 27 to September 9; open daily for visitors to call in and find out more about amateur radio and make contacts across the world.

If transmitting conditions are favourable, they hope to make more than 20,000 contacts over this period.

I was fortunate to make contact last week with their Olympic Park partners in London, as well as speaking to radio enthusiasts across the world. Find out more on their website www.bars.btik.com and call in when you are visiting Barry Island.

The Barry Arts Festival is also well under way. It is a full programme, with events taking place across Barry in Windsor Road Church Hall, the Knap Gardens, Masonic Hall and Docks Office, as well as West End Club.

Well done to the Porthceri team, who have organised this with support from the Arts Council for Wales.

I particularly enjoyed the afternoon concert and talk by Del Rey and the singing from the Choral Workshop as well as the Art4U fringe event in the Knap Gardens.

There is much more to come as the column goes out this week, so check out *www.porthceri.co.uk* .

Also, Barry is hosting a major event on the Waterfront from August 3-5, celebrating 50 years of Jamican independence with tickets available from the Memorial Hall Theatre box office.

I made a number of visits last week including the Galilee Chapel project at St Illtud's Church in Llantwit Major, to view the first stage of the work being undertaken to revive and restore this wonderful chapel.

It will house the ancient Celtic stones and enable us to delve further into the inspiring history of St Illtud and support new community facilities in the church.

See more via www.illtuds-galileechapel.org.uk.

I was also deeply impressed by my visit to view the new University Hospital, Llandough units for serving older people with our £56 million investment in inpatient and day assessment facilities, the rehabilitation day hospital and a new outpatient department to serve the whole hospital.

This is what our National Health Service can deliver with funding and support from the Welsh Government and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, replacing outdated facilities with five-star facilities for very vulnerable patients, and supporting our skilled, experienced NHS staff.

As staff and carers toured the new facilities, there was widespread amazement .

This is the National Health Service we celebrated globally on the opening night of the Olympic Games, inspired by the work of Great Ormond Street Hospital, as we are by our own Children's Hospital here in Wales.

Nye Bevan would have been proud on Friday night, as well as being proud of the new facilities at Llandough Hospital.

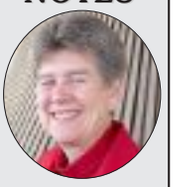
We know the National Eisteddfod will be a great success for the Vale of Glamorgan, following a year of voluntary effort and commitment across towns and villages to raise the necessary funds to make this annual celebration of Welsh culture the memorable event that it will be.

Opening with the 'Only Kids Aloud o'r Fro' concert on Friday night conducted by Tim Rhys-Evans, followed by the National Eisteddfod choir, drawn together from local choirs and singers, with a new Karl Jenkins composition, we will be inspired by their talent, commitment and skill. Find out more at http://www.eisteddfod.org.uk/.

Throughout the week, they are featuring Vale of Glamorgan groups and organisations which I will be attending, as well as the key ceremonies and competitions in the Pavilion.

Visitors to the National Eisteddfod will be inspired by the beautiful Vale of Glamorgan countryside, historical towns and the Heritage Coast Path. Croeso i chi gyd!

ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Vale AM
JANE HUTT
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

An afternoon of pure entertainment at the Dinas Strawberry Tea

ABOVE; Chairman of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern, John Fanshaw, with Eleri and Arwel Peleg-Williams and Coun Val Hartrey, chair of Dinas Powys Community Council.

THE annual Strawberry Tea organised by Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern was held recently, with teas provided by the Dinas Powys WI, including the essential strawberries!

Supporters were entertained by Rebekah West, who attends St Cyres School, singing songs from *Les Miserables* and *Oliver Twist*, including 'Consider Yourself At Home' and 'I Dreamed A Dream'. This young lady has plenty of talent and won the hearts of the audience.

Eleri and Arwel Peleg-Williams were a very entertaining duo, with Eleri accompanying on the piano. 'Summer Time' from *Porgy and Bess* and 'My Little Welsh Home' were sung, as were the folk songs '*Hefo Deio i Dywyn'* and '*Ble'rwyt ti'n myned*'.

The classic hymn 'Take my life, and let it be' to an arrangement of St Bees, was excellent.

Rebekah is one of the singers from Only Kids Aloud, who were filmed singing on Rhossili beach representing Wales, as part of the opening ceremony at the London Olympics. **CF**

PACT meetings

CORNERSWELL PACT, *August 2 at Cogan Leisure Centre at 7pm.*

ST ATHAN PACT, *August 5 at The Gathering Place at 2pm.*

BUTTRILLS PACT, *August 6 at Philip John Community Room, Barry Library at 6.30pm.*

DINAS POWYS PACT, *August 6 at St Mary's Church Hall, Edith Road at 7pm.*

LLANDOUGH PACT, *August 13 at Llandough British Legion at 7pm.*

LLANDOW/EWENNY PACT, *August 15 at Ewenny Village Hall at 7pm.*

VALE BOYS ENJOY OUTDOOR ADVENTURES AT CWM TAWEL

RIGHT: The 20 pupils learned about surviving outdoors at Cwm Tawel, Maesteg.

PUPILS from Vale schools swapped their classrooms for the great outdoors, in a series of bushcraft adventures at Cwm Tawel in Maesteg.

The Vale of Glamorgan School Improvement Service invited the 20 boys to take part in a new project which aims to develop boys' writing skills by stimulating their imaginations.

During the six-week project, boys from years 5 and 7 at Barry Comprehensive, Gladstone Primary, Ysgol Sant Curig, Cadoxton Primary – and also the Amelia Trust – worked in their 'tribes', where they made new friends from different schools.

Each week, they learned how to collaborate with each other, work as a team and how to survive in the wild.

By the end of their adventures, they made fires from twigs collected in the woods to cook their own lunch, built dens to protect them from the rain, learned what they could safely eat in the wild and how to look after their environment.

The boys used video cameras and iPads to record their activities and wrote blogs, instructions and created survival guides when they returned to school.

They talked about their experiences and showed the movies they had made, at a presentation morning for their parents and headteachers.

Heledd Gruffudd, from Ysgol Sant Curig, said: "The range of skills used as part of this project was hugely varied.

"In a five-minute discussion about lighting fires and extinguishing flames, they had covered a lesson's worth of teaching."

For more information, visit the Cwm Tawel website: www.cwmtawel.org.uk.

Schoolchildren take CSI lessons from local PCSO

PCSO Michelle Griffiths has been out on the road, teaching children from primary schools about forensic science – as part of National Science Week.

The youngsters, aged between six and 11, heard about fingerprints and DNA, how these are collected and processed,and how they help police to solve crimes.

The event, which was held at Welsh Water in Dinas Powys, aimed to increase children's interest in science and brought together partner agencies such as South Wales Police, the Forestry Commission, the Vale Council and Eco Schools, who all provided activities for the pupils.

PCSO Griffiths said: "The initiative was a great success and all the children were very keen to see how we use forensic science.

"They took their own fingerprints and footprints and examined them under a microscope to see how they are all different.

"It was a fun and enjoyable learning experience for them."

CCTV arrests

SIX people were arrested in Barry, after Vale Council CCTV operators contacted the police on 11 occasions, during the week ending July 29.

One person was arrested on Island Road for allegedly failing to stop after a road accident and under the influence ofdrugs on July 27.

On the same day, police arrested four people concerning criminal damage on Paget Road, Barry Island.

Another person was arrested on Holton Road on July 28 for alleged assault and public order.

The MASTER MARINER
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Live Entertainment ...
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Drama teacher takes Shakespeare to Kenya

BARRY Comprehensive performing arts teacher, Audra Ellis, recently visited the school's 'baby brother' Lwanda Primary in Kenya.

Here is her report:

This term, I had the great pleasure of being able to visit our baby brother school, Lwanda Primary in Kenya. I was greeted with one of the warmest welcomes I have ever had, and was told that this was the first visit to Lwanda Primary School from the UK since 1972.

Students and staff received gifts of pens, pencils, footballs, rugby balls, face paints and library books with great enthusiasm.

When presented with the Welsh flag, students erected a new flag pole, which enabled them to raise both the Kenyan and the Welsh flags every morning in assembly, as a sign of the link between our two schools.

Teachers at Lwanda Primary also told me that because of our gifts, they would be the first primary school in Kenya to play rugby and, on my return, I was told that absenteeism and truancy had been reduced.

The Kobala Youth group.

Letters from pen pals were handed out on my first day to the school, where pupils eagerly awaited their mail. Many students (and staff) informed me that they are yet to have pen pals but hope to get on the pen pal scheme as soon as possible.

Classes took part in a range of drama games and the pupils were introduced to William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which they performed later on in the week to the rest of the school in the open among the trees.

While on my visit, I was invited to events such as the area's music festival where around 30 schools travelled for miles to take part in the weekend long festival of singing and dramatic dance, and an African Child Day festival held by Lwanda Primary School.

We were entertained by dances, dramatic poetry readings and performances by a local theatre company, 'Kobala Youth Group' about the importance of sending children to school.

Next year, we hope to get even more students to join our pen pal scheme, and hope to expand our curriculum links even further to other departments within the school.

Police and pupils tackle Dinas parking problems

SOUTH Wales Police has been working in partnership with Dinas Powys Infants School to tackle road safety and parking issues outside the school.

PCSO Griffiths has been conducting classroom visits to provide road safety advice to the children and explain the dangers of vehicles parking on double yellow lines.

As part of their special lesson, the pupils then coloured in posters to put up outside the school in order to encourage drivers to park safely.

PCSO Griffiths said: "The children are now very aware that it is dangerous to park on the double yellow lines outside their school.

"They have taken this message home to their families, which has significantly helped to reduce the problem of illegal parking in the area.

"The school have fully supported the campaign and officers have increased their patrols and issued fixed penalty notices where necessary."

POLICE IN PENARTH PUT THE BRAKES ON TOWN BIKE THIEVES

POLICE in Penarth have launched an operation to put the brakes on bike theft in the town.

Officers will be conducting extra patrols and providing cyclists with security advice over the summer period, as part of Operation Alps.

Acting Inspector Darren Grady, who is leading the operation, said: "There has been an increase in the number of bike thefts in Penarth over the last four months.

"Bikes are popular targets for thieves as an increasing number of people are investing in high-value models.

"As a result, officers will be conducting additional patrols and raising awareness of bike security in hotspot areas in order to keep thieves at bay.

"We want to remind residents that many burglaries and thefts are opportunistic; therefore, it is important to ensure your property is secure, in order to deter thieves and keep your bike safe."

As part of the operation, officers have also been acting upon intelligence to recover stolen bikes in the area.

On Friday, July 20, an Orange Sub Zero mountain bike, worth approximately £600, was recovered from an address in Sully.

The bike had previously been stolen from Queen Street, Cardiff, in October 2011.

Acting Inspector Grady added: "I want to warn thieves that their activities will not be tolerated in the Vale of Glamorgan and those responsible for such crime will be found and brought to justice."

PC Richard Collins, Crime Reduction Officer for Safer Vale, said:

"Always lock your bicycle wherever you leave it, and invest in a good quality D-lock. Remember to lock the bike to an immovable object in a well-lit, busy public area."

Register your bike on the national property register for free by visiting: www.immobilise.com.

Anyone with information on crime in their community is asked to contact the police on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

ACF looking for recruits

MR Stan Smith, chairman of the Barry British Legion, was a Cadet Staff/Sgt in 1943 and is pictured here with Staff/Sgt Oliver Wood at the recent open day held in the Barry ACF Hut.

Barry Army Cadet Force is recruiting this September and is looking for boys and girls who wish to join a youth organisation with a difference.

They meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 7pm-9pm and are looking for boys and girls of 12-years-old who are starting year-8 in school.

WANTED: Merthyr Dyfan Church photos!

AN appeal for the loan of family photos of everyone who was christened or married at Merthyr Dyfan Church, has been launched by Father Robert Parrish.

Father Robert said: "We would like to borrow, or make copies of, these treasured photos to put them on display at the church for the month of August."

Photographs can be delivered to Father Robert at 10 Buttrills Road, Barry, or by calling 01446 735943.

Alternatively, photos can be taken to the church on Wednesday afternoons in August or at the Sunday morning service which is held every week at 8.45am.

There is the chance every Wednesday afternoon until August 22 to visit the beautiful medieval church of Merthyr Dyfan, Barry.

The church will be open on these days from 2pm-4pm, admission free, and tea and coffee will be served.

In addition to the display of wedding and christening photos the Parish registers recording baptisms and marriages in the church will be there for everyone to see.

There will be a special welcome for all who have family connections through marriages or baptisms at the church. **TS**

Olympic radio station out of the blocks at Barry...

RIGHT: Jane Hutt AM with Glyn Jones at the Barry Island Olympic Amateur Radio Station

BARRY Island has hosted the launch of the Barry Amateur Olympic Radio Station for Wales.

With a grant from the Lottery, the Barry Amateur Radio Station led by Glyn Jones, has won the Inspire title and is linked to the Olympic Radio Station in London at New Eltham.

By Friday morning, over 2,000 contacts had been made across the world when the Vale AM, Jane Hutt, visited to make a link with London and to wish the Barry station well for the Olympic season on Barry Island.

Hall meeting for youth club

THERE will be a an open meeting in the Jubilee Hall, Sully, at 8pm on Monday, August 6 – to discuss setting up a youth club in the village.

Volunteer youth leaders, Vale and community councillors will be present and all members of the public, both young and old, are invited, in order to help get this project off the ground.

For further information, contact Coun Bob Penrose on 02920 530368 or Coun Kevin Mahoney on 01446 746671.

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Croeso cynnes i'r 'Steddfod – it will put Vale on the map!

IT'S ARRIVED – the pink pavilion is in *situ* and locals and tourists alike cannot fail to have noticed the signage directing Eisteddfod visitors to the Maes.

Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

Later this week, the annual National Eisteddfod will welcome all to the Vale of Glamorgan at the site in Llandow in the western Vale. The largest structure on the temporary festival site is of course the iconic pink '*Pafiliwn*.'

I was absolutely delighted when the brilliant news broke almost two years ago that the National Eisteddfod was coming to the Vale in August 2012.

Since my childhood, I've been going to the Eisteddfod regularly, and have enjoyed hours of wandering the Maes (the site where the festival is held), meeting old friends, and of course, listening to the competitions and the concerts.

The Eisteddfod is a very special event that will attract up to 160,000 visitors to the Vale, acting as a shop window for economic investments in general and tourism in the Vale.

The Eisteddfod can generate from £6 to £8 million to the host area each year, which is great news for local businesses.

Recent figures show that 11.2 per cent of people living in the Vale are employed in the tourism and hospitality sectors, with many more living further afield by working in the Vale.

It's important to use the Eisteddfod as an opportunity to bring together the traditions of the Vale as well – the native Welsh speakers, English-language areas and people who have moved here to live.

The Vale is a unique place, combining the beauty of the rural areas and the legacy of the stunning coastline with our industrial history of coal exporting and the traditional miners' holidays to Barry Island in the summer.

I've been so pleased to hear that many local businesses have committed to supporting the Eisteddfod through sponsorship and fundraising within local communities right across the Vale. It has been a huge challenge for all involved, but well worth the effort.

There has been a kaleidoscope of events from sporting days out, themed evenings, fish and chip suppers and dog shows, to name but a few, which have helped raise essential funds.

It's great to see cheerful bunting dressing the town centres of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge, and lining the hedgerows and homes along villages in the western Vale.

I'm so pleased that so many residents, local businesses, community and Vale councils have helped make sure that the Vale is looking its best as the festival and its hordes of visitors approach.

With such an influx of visitors to the area it's vital that the significant increase in traffic is well-managed, and I know that the organizers and local authority officers have been working hard over the past few months to lessen any disruption to locals and visitors alike.

I'm really looking forward to a fantastic and unforgettable Eisteddfod this year. I'm convinced it the Eisteddfod will put the Vale on the map, not only for 2012, but for many years to come.

Mae croeso i bawb yn y 'Steddfod – I look forward to meeting many of you on the Maes over the next week or so!

Penarth RNLI rescue a couple – and their dog!

PENARTH RNLI set a record recently – by rescuing a couple who hadn't even realised they were in danger!

The couple had been cut off by the rising tide, but were unaware of the impending danger until the lifeboat spotted them on the beach.

The drama took place at 9pm on Sunday, July 22, just as the crew were finishing a routine training exercise.

A Penarth RNLI spokeswoman explained: "The warm weather earlier in the day had brought out a large number of walkers, enjoying a stroll along the coast between Penarth and Lavernock Point.

"Before returning to the lifeboat station, the lifeboat – helmed by trainee Owain Davies and crewed by Maldwyn Hopkin, Jon Russill and Matt Church – carried out a patrol of the coastline, to make sure nobody had become stranded by the quickly-rising tide.

"As they did so, they spotted a couple walking their dog half-a-mile south of Penarth. At this point, the shoreline between the walkers and Penarth was already flooded.

"The lifeboat crew approached the couple and explained the situation to them, and they were unaware of how quickly the tide had come in.

"They took the advice of the crew to join them in the lifeboat, along with their dog, to be transported quickly and safely to the slipway on Penarth beach."

Laurie Pavlin, RNLI sea safety officer and deputy launching authority for the Penarth lifeboats that night, said: "There have been high tides this weekend which can catch people out.

"It's important for walkers along the coast to be aware of how quickly the tide comes up in the Cardiff area".

The previous day, Penarth RNLI were called to a more routine incident, just before 10.30 pm on Saturday, July 22, when the larger of the station's two boats – the Atlantic 85 – was launched to go to the assistance of a 23-foot motorboat with three people on board.

The motorboat had reported engine failure and told the Coastguard it was positioned close to Flat Holm Island.

Lifeboat helm Maldwyn Hopkin and his crew of Owain Davies, Geraint Williams and Matt Church finally located the broken-down motorboat four miles off the coast of Barry, and towed it – along with its three occupants, who were from the Llanrumney area of Cardiff – to the safety of Barry Harbour.

Barrivale Bridge Club round-up

THE Latest results from Barrivale, July 17:

First – Mark Roderick and Kay Dyer, 71.43 per cent; Second – Mike Close and Denis Mottram, 56.25 per cent; Third – Jane Brook and Irene Thomas, 53.97 per cent. Mark & Kay also won on handicap.

New members always welcome at Barrivale. To join, call 01446 733425, or 01446 418 380, or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm. **MB**

Afternoon club is welcomed

AS a result of Rene Gannon's dedicated voluntary work, the Dinas Powys Wednesday Afternoon Club was able to take a large group to the Senedd.

This community service provides a vital means of transport for pensioners and communities who do not have access to public transport,Jane Hutt AM said.

"It was great to welcome the Dinas Powys Wednesday Afternoon Club to the Senedd, having travelled in the Greenlinks Bus."

Barry Island WEEKENDERS

FREE Family events every weekend this summer

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKENDER

Sat 4 & Sun 5 August

Olympic-themed street entertainment along the promenade including 'Anyone for Tennis', Balloon Modelling and Cuthbert Clott - The Next Olympic Champion. From 12pm both days.

11 & 12 August

STREET SPORTS WEEKENDER

Join Ash Randall, professional football freestyler, and Matti Hemmings, professional BMX flatlander, for street sport performances and workshops. From 11am to 4pm both days.

18 & 19 August

ZAPCATS WEEKENDER

Fast and furious Zapcat Powerboat action. The adrenalin-pumped racing will take place on both days, promising plenty of speedy excitement. From 11am both days.

25 & 26 August

STREET ART WEEKENDER

Let loose your artistic flair by drawing on the mini cubes along the promenade or take part in free graffiti art workshops. All ages and abilities welcome. 11am to 4pm both days.

All events will take place along the prom or seafront. Please note that timings may be subject to change at short notice. For further details, please call 01446 704737 / 01446 747171 or go online at www.visitthevale.com

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS...

Ramblers cool off at Farewell Rock

ON a sunny summer day, three walkers joined Robin and his cocker spaniel Pepper to conquer Cribarth, a ridge on the Black Mountain.

This ridge is sometimes referred to as the sleeping giant because of the shape of its outline; it has been extensively quarried over the years and contains many disused workings, tram roads and shakeholes.

They started from near Craig y Nos Country Park and immediately climbed 700 feet up the side of the valley to Cribarth, where there were stunning views, including the dismantled railway station the famous opera diva Adelina Patti had built on the Neath and Brecon Railway line after purchasing Craig y Nos.

Walking the ridgeway the group began to descend to Abercrave where they popped into the local pub for a swift drink to cool them down, and passing under the road, stopped for lunch to fortify them for the climb up the Nant Llech Gorge to Henrhyd waterfall.

Passing over the edge of Farewell Rock, an unbroken drop of 90 feet (27 metres) into the steep wooded valley below means this is the highest waterfall in the Brecon Beacons National Park.

With care it is possible to walk on the rocky ledge and stand behind the towering waterfall and in the heat that seemed the most popular thing to do, followed by standing in the pool at the base or sitting on the bank enjoying a picnic.

Leaving the waterfall they climbed out of the gorge and crossed fields down into the valley to join part of the Beacons Way, the 100-mile (161km) route from Ysgyryd Fawr, or Holy Mountain, in the east, to Bethlehem, near Llandeilo, in the west, which passes over some of the most beautiful landscape scenery in Wales.

Making their way back to the start via Craig y Nos, where the castle was begun in 1841 but not finished until Adelina Patti became the owner, the group had a quick peep at the theatre that was added by her and learned that after her death in 1919, the castle became a hospital, but has now been turned into a hotel and conference centre.

On August 4, meet at 8.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 12-mile hard walk at Glasbury (on the way to Hay-on-Wye); contact Barrie on 029 20530753.

On August 5, meet at 9am at Cogan for a nine-mile moderate walk in the Wye Valley near Lydbrook; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On August 9, meet at 7pm at the Fox and Hounds for a four-mile easy/moderate walk at Llancarfan. Do not use the pub car park but the public one at the rear. For more information contact Val W on 01446 734925.

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'Pork in the Park' a huge success!

ABOVE: A hawk tucks in to the pork!

Serving the food.

RIGHT: Revellers enjoy some food and drink, and the evening raised £800 for Rotary charities.

THE Rotary Club of Barry's first fundraising event of the new Rotary year has been hailed as an 'Outstanding success'!

Pork in the Park, a barbecue at the Welsh Hawking Centre, Barry, organised by past president and owner of the Hawking Centre, Ceri Griffiths, on the evening of Friday, July 13, was supported by more than 100 people.

A flying display courtesy of the staff of the Welsh Hawking Centre marked the beginning of the evening, and even a heavy rain shower failed to dampen the spirits of all attending!

A well supported raffle brought the final total raised to more than £800 for Rotary charities.

President John Shapland said that he was overwhelmed with the support and the success of this first fundraising event of the year, paying particular tribute to Griff and the teamwork of his fellow Rotarians.

In August, the club will be at the Vale Show in Fonmon supporting Stroke Awareness. Free blood pressure tests will be available to everyone attending, along with a fundraising stall – details of which are to be announced soon.

Plans are already in hand for the Fireworks Fiesta on November 5 at Barry Island, which will take place come rain or shine!

The Rotary Club of Barry meets weekly in the Mount Sorrel Hotel on Thursdays at 6pm. For further information, call Peter Battle on 01446 710204, or look online at: www.ribi.org.

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Lavernock: it's a magical meadow!

RIGHT: Lavernock Point nature reserve is opening up to the public on August 12.

RESIDENTS are being invited to join Wildlife Trust volunteers at Lavernock Point nature reserve for an open day on August 12, from 12 noon-4pm – to explore the rare limestone habitat.

Local experts will be giving guided walks showing off the meadow flowers and butterflies which thrive so close to the urban areas of Penarth, Barry and Cardiff. Parking is available at Cosmeston Lakes where transport is available to take people on to the reserve.

Lovely views out across the estuary, and southern hawker and emperor dragonflies are also part of the attraction.

The meadow at this time of year will be a blue haze of Devil's bit scabious and knapweed, and dotted with yellow stars of bird's foot trefoil and fleabane.

Jeff Curtis, volunteer, said: "This is a chance to visit a rare example of limestone grassland, which is an increasingly rare habitat.

"For me it is a tranquil oasis, a haven for wildlife and people alike."

Lavernock Point is eight kilometres south of Cardiff and six kilometres east of Barry. Bus services are available (88 and 94) from Cardiff, Barry and Penarth. The site also has a listed ancient monument on site, which is a World War II Battery. **LM**

Charity boot camp!

STARTING on September 3, at Trinity Methodist Church, Penarth, personal trainer and fitness expert Sian Thomas will be holding a four-week indoor fitness and fat loss boot camp – to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

The charity is a cause close to Sian's heart, as Marie Curie nurses helped and supported her family while her grandma was ill and allowed her to spend her last days at home.

Sian hopes to raise £500 to help the charity with its work, as well as having a goal to make Penarth the healthiest town in the country.

The boot camp usually costs £109, but Sian is asking for a donation of £20–£40 for the charity.

It involves three one-hour workout sessions a week on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 9.30am-10.30am.

Boot campers will also be getting a nutrition plan, cook book and continued nutritional advice from Sian, plus a guarantee to drop a clothes size.

To book your place and make your donation, visit: www.fitnessbootcampcardiff, or call 07792 638995. **ST**

Ty Hafan Scout Group helps children cope with tragedy

ONE of the worst Welsh summers on record did not put off the Ty Hafan Scout group from going on their annual camp, this year to Builth Wells.

The group, consisting of brothers and sisters of some of the children and young people who spend time at Ty Hafan hospice, had been looking forward to the trip all year.

Lynne Doyle has been the sibling support worker at Ty Hafan for the past three years.

Her job is to help brothers and sisters deal with the changes in their family life, brought about by having a sibling who needs special and constant care.

She explained: "All the young people are great, and their ability to cope with their particular situation never ceases to amaze me.

"They do need a bit of help now and then though, and knowing how much stress their parents can be under caring for their brother or sister can make them reluctant to add to their worries by talking to them about their own issues.

"That's where I come in. Sometimes older children can find it difficult to discuss their fears and feelings, but I try to create the situation which allows them to open up to me and we can work them through together, involving the rest of the family, if really necessary.

"At Ty Hafan, we arrange opportunities for the siblings to get together on a regular basis.

"It's hugely beneficial for them to be with others who are in a similar situation, and who understand.

"This can be particularly good for those whose brother or sister has died, and we run a special event every year for bereaved siblings.

"The annual camp trip is always great fun – whatever the weather, they can all let off steam and have a really good time," Lynne concluded.

Tom exhibits aerial photos of Barry at Victoria Park show

LOCAL historian Tom Clemett returns to Victoria Park with his third exhibition of historic photographs of Barry.

He has delved into his treasure trove of photographs to bring a new slant to his photographic history of the town.

There are 50 aerial photographs, some dating back to 1930, when John Cobham's Flying Circus gave trips over the town in an Avro 504 bi-plane for 10 shillings a flight. There is also a photograph from World War II, taken from a German reconnaissance plane.

He also has a collection of shots commissioned by H Tempest Co and Terence Soames Photography, both of whom specialised in aerial photography in the 1950s.

The second part of the exhibition shows how places and streets in the town were made.

There are pictures of famous people and dignitaries who are forgotten now, but who live on in our everyday lives without us even knowing it.

Montgomery Road was named after General Bernard 'Monty' Montgomery!

Park manager Jon Greatrex said: "Tom has done it again with this exhibition, he has a huge selection of photographs to draw, on and always finds something new and unusual."

The exhibition runs until Monday, September 17. Opening times are 10am-4pm daily, seven days a week (closed for lunch 1pm-2pm weekends – and some very occasional times when there may be a meeting in progress).

Berry anxious for new home

ABOVE: Berry needs a good home.

"I'M Berry, one of the many kittens available at Bridgend Adoption Centre.

"I am only 11 weeks old and was found living outside with my three brothers and sisters.

"I was placed into a foster home for a few weeks to help me adapt to a home life. Now I'm here, ready and waiting for a permanent loving home.

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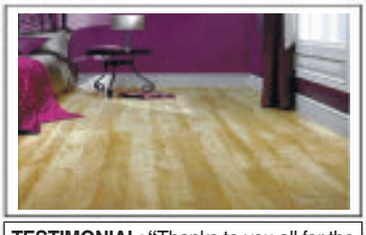

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Longserving Best Kept Village chief Basil looks back as he steps down

AT the recent annual dinner for the Best Kept Village (BKV) in the Vale of Glamorgan, Basil and Eileen Watkins were invited as honoured guests.

Commander John Curteis, the president, praised the work carried out by Basil, who had been chairman for 15 years, and also Eileen – for her tremendous support.

In response, Basil said it was like being on the TVprogramme, *Myself looking Backwards.*

He recalled: "In 1964 we moved into Pendoylan, and it wasn't long before we were invited to help prepare the village for the BKV competition.

"We dutifully turned up with our two young sons, armed with brushes, spades, hoes, etc, to be allocated our tasks.

"The enthusiasm shown by all the working party was tremendous, and after the evening's work was completed, we were invited to attend the committee meeting in the Red Lion.

"The boys stayed in the car. They still chide us that they were left with just a bottle of pop and a bag of crisps! I pointed out they were far better looked after than by our Prime Minister who forgot to pick up his child in the car!

"Actually, it wasn't a committee meeting, but a pleasant gathering of other workers; and within a month, we met virtually everyone in the community."

This enthusiasm continued, until two years later, they won the competition for the first time.

On the day of the presentation, the village green was laid out with bunting and trestle table laden with food. Since then, They have since won many times.

There have been choirs, police dog displays and similar entertainment. Perhaps, the most notable was when the village won the BKV in Wales, and noted broadcaster Wynford Vaughan Thomas, came to unveil the plaque.

"In due course, I was elected to the management committee, and 15 years ago was appointed chairman. Over time, there have been several innovations, including the special feature event and the children's competition.

"I was honoured to be invited to the headquarters of Calor Gas, to join the committee planning the village of the year competition in Wales.

This was a much more comprehensive contest, involving six different aspects, such as provisions for youth and the elderly, community activities, business ventures, environment award, and Prince Charles chose to visit the village, as this award was close to his heart.

"It was a tremendous honour to be asked by the Lord Lieutenant to organise this event. The Prince and Duchess of Cornwall, arrived by helicopter opposite the school, and children regaled them at a concert."

Basil said he has many happy memories of his time, at the helm, particularly the way many communities have been brought closer together.

Once when there was no meeting place in the area, the inhabitants gathered in each other's houses and met people they had not previously known before.

"That surely exhibits 'community spirit"... He urged those who are now picking up the baton, to ensure this continues.

Basil presented a handsome bound photograph album, to be competed for by winners of the special feature awards, which will contain their full entry details, in order to inpire future entrants.

ABOVE: Basil and Eileen with the chief judge Roger Thomas.
PHOTO BY HEATHER MARCH

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Ty Hafan see some Stunning Ventures!

Stunning Ventures team– Tim and Daniel Matthews from Monmouth – had a speedy surprise for the young people at Ty Hafan recently.

YOUNG racing car enthusiasts who happened to be staying at Ty Hafan recently, had a real treat when the Stunning Ventures team, Tim and Daniel Matthews from Monmouth, arrived with two of their cars.

The young people and staff were enthralled to see the sleek machines lowered from the back of their transport vehicle to be lined up in front of the hospice for a close up inspection.

Unfortunately, the youngsters were unable to actually sit inside the tiny cockpits, but their carers experienced it on their behalf.

SV Racing has recently chosen to support Ty Hafan and display the charity logo on their cars. The organisation specialises in staging corporate events and driving experiences in their high performance cars.

Owner Tim Matthews, a former FI driver, was very moved during a recent visit to the hospice and vowed to do whatever he could to help Ty Hafan provide care and support to the 400 families from across Wales who currently use its services.

He said: "Ty Hafan is an amazing place with some equally amazing and dedicated staff whose sole aim in life is to make the lives of families, who have a tough time, as comfortable and supported as possible."

'The area will benefit from superfast broadband' – MP

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, has welcomed news that BT has been appointed as the contractor to implement the UK Government's investment in broadband infrastructure across Wales.

Mr Cairns said that it was a major step towards many Vale villages receiving superfast broadband.

During 2011, the UK government announced that it would provide £56m for investment in super-fast broadband across Wales. The ambitious project – which is the largest partnership of its kind in the UK – will use public and private funds to deliver fibre-optic broadband to parts of the country not covered by commercial plans.

The MP said: "This is the lifeline of many rural villages and will allow more people to work from home, raising the prosperity and sustainability of local areas.

"I have been campaigning for better broadband service for residents and businesses across the Vale. Barry, Llantwit Major and Colwinston now have fibre-optic broadband and I will be pushing to make sure that Cowbridge and the rural Vale will be included in the areas to benefit from this further investment."

Accident scene donation for the Air Ambulance

On Friday, July 20, Wales Air Ambulance responded to a call out to attend a young man who had been injured in a road traffic collision on the M4 near Margam.

Wales Air Ambulance began treatment at the scene of the incident before taking the patient to University Hospital Wales to receive further medical attention.

As the helicopter was leaving, a member of the public approached the aircraft to give the paramedics donations that had been collected from motorists on scene. The donation came to around £50, although in the hurry to get the patient to hospital the man's details were not taken.

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Scott Wroe Hearing Centre

For more information or to arrange your free appointment
Please call 02920 707760
1 Station Approach, Penarth, CF64 3EE
(Free Parking available opposite the shop)

Croeso i'r Eisteddfod!
Vale proudly welcomes Wales' premier festival

Hywel Edwards, the organiser of the National Eisteddfod, is a calming presence as preparations continue for Wales' premier cultural event.

by TIM CHAPMAN

PREPARE to be amazed! In just a few short weeks, the National Eisteddfod 'pavilioned village' has been recreated at its new home for 2012 at Llandow and is ready to provide hundreds of attractions for thousands of visitors from this Saturday, August 4.

As The GEM was going to press, last-minute preparations were under way on the hugely impressive site.

The organiser Hywel Edwards said that people would be thrilled by the scale of the National Eisteddfod and what was on offer.

"It's only when visitors arrive that they realise just how big it all is. In total, the site covers around 140 acres – the area for the pavilions is 33 acres, the youth village is 15 acres, and car parks and caravan parks account for 45 acres each.

"The average number of visitors in recent years has been 150,000 people. Sometimes it can get up to 160,000 people; another year, it might be nearer 140,000."

One of the organisers' main considerations in choosing a site it to make sure it is as accessible as possible for a good slice of the population.

"We like somewhere people can travel to within an hour and this year takes in areas like Cardiff, Swansea and Newport."

The festival provides a huge range of attractions – music, dance, visual arts, theatrical and vocal performances and lots of family activities.

Official competitions and cultural ceremonies are held at the 'Maes', and the Pink Pavilion, a stylish 2,500 seat arena, is its focal point.

Hywel emphasised that this year the seating in the Pink Pavilion has been widened in front of the stage, with an almost semi-circular effect, so everyone gets the best possible view.

"I particularly look forward to the concerts and the ceremonies.

"But there is so much to see – the National Eisteddfod is the largest cultural event of its kind in Europe."

There will be more than 300 stalls and trade stands, the largest visual arts exhibition in Wales, a science and technology pavilion which children can "lose themselves in for the day", and much, much more.

Hywel, who has been organising this Welsh celebration since 1993, exudes an aura of calm despite the frenetic activity going on around him.

He has immense admiration for the workers who make the whole festival a reality.

"They deserve a lot of praise, sometimes working from seven in the morning until seven at night.

"If they are needed, they'll even work through the night!"

The only time he and his fellow organisers had serious doubts about whether 'the show would go on' was when it was held in Mold in 2007.

"The weather was terrible and we had doubts if it should go ahead, but in the end it did."

Hywel said people should not be deterred by the rain, pointing out that once on site the entertainments and attractions are in pavilions and marquees.

Many people book their holidays to coincide with the National Eisteddfod and return year after year, but Hywel had a message for people who had not attended before (also emphasising that there are free 'simultaneous translation' facilities available for people who don't speak Welsh):

"If you haven't been before, don't be afraid – come and see what the Eisteddfod is all about and really enjoy it – and bring a little sun with you!"

Gareth, Rachael, Einir and Trystan, of Cyw fame.

Cyw characters steal the show

AT 5pm on Sunday, August 5, a full capacity crowd is expected at the Eisteddfod's literary pavilion, as some of the nation's most familiar faces are welcomed to the stage.

Eisteddfod Cyw will feature Sali Mali, Jac y Jwc, Oli Old, Tigi, Huwi Stomp and rapper Dona Direidi.

"Eisteddfod Cyw is an open competition and the characters can choose what to perform. We look forward to witnessing world-class performances – whether it's singing, dancing, reciting or an instrumental performance – and I ask the audience to show fairness for each competitor," says Einir Dafydd, Cyw presenter, who will be joined at the event by co-presenter Trystan Morris.

Presiding on the stage will be Cyw presenters Rachael Solomon and Gareth Delve and several more characters from favourite shows will show their support.

Jac y Jwc, of Pentre Bach, says: "I'm looking forward to winning the Eisteddfod. I've never won anything before."

But Dona Direidi, of Dre Be Nei Di, is confident that her excellent rapping will steal the show. "It's me, Dona Direidi, who's going to win the day. I'm so good at rapping, you'll all be clapping!"

Eisteddfod Cyw is a free event and you do not need a ticket.

'Iolo' trail launched in time for Eisteddfod

A NEW walking trail exploring the life of Iolo Morganwg was launched at the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge this week.

The launch was timed to coincide with the arrival of the National Eisteddfod in the Vale.

Locals and visitors gathered in the shadow of a 12-foot sculpture of Edward Williams, born near Llancarfan, but better known by his bardic name, Iolo Morganwg.

Among the speakers were Dr Prys Morgan and Professor Geraint E Jenkins, who also celebrated the launch of his new book on Iolo's life: 'Bard of Liberty: the Political Radicalism of Iolo Morganwg'.

The 6.5-mile Iolo Morganwg Trail has been funded by Creative Rural Communities, the Vale Council's rural regeneration initiative. It celebrates the life of one of the area's most colourful characters while guiding visitors around the heritage sites in the Vale.

Iolo Morganwg (1747-1846) is renowned for his leading role in the 18th century cultural renaissance of Wales. His creation, the Gorsedd of the Bards of the Island of Britain, was in essence the first Welsh national cultural institution. It was designed to raise the profile of the Welsh culture and language and foster a sense of pride.

Coun Lis Burnett of the Vale Council said: "Iolo Morganwg was the Vale's greatest advocate, referring to the area as 'Britain's Paradise'. It is fitting that we celebrate one of our most famous sons as we welcome the National Eisteddfod."

Branwen Dickson of Creative Rural Communities, added: "The local interest in Iolo during the course of developing the trail has been fantastic.

"We're particularly grateful to Professor Geraint E Jenkins, who volunteered his time to provide the historical content for the trail booklet."

To mark the launch of the trail a guided walk will take place on Monday, August 6 at 11am, starting at Cowbridge Walled Garden. The walk will be led by local ramblers and accompanied by Dr Cathryn Charnell-White.

The trail booklets are free to pick up at the Vale Council stand at the Eisteddfod (A24 and A25) and at sites in the Vale including Costa, The Bear Hotel on Cowbridge High Street, the Bush Inn in St Hilary, The Blue Anchor in East Aberthaw and St Illtyd's Church, Llantwit Major. It is also available online at: www.visitthevale.com.

WHAT'S ON
in brief

Open mic

BOYD CLACK will be at Barry Arts Festival this evening (Thursday, August 2) to perform for the first half of the open mic night at Masonic Hall, Barry, from 7pm.

Walk Ten for Marie Curie

MARIE Curie Cancer Care holds its Walk Ten at Margam Country Park on Saturday (August 4) with 400 walker expected to take part.

There will be entertainment, fireworks and a hog roast, and a 10km twilight walk around the park.

'Hounds for Pounds'

PAMPERED pets are being put through their final paces for the Ty Hafan 'Hounds for Pounds' sponsored dog walk around the Margam Country Park (followed by competitions and demonstrations) on August 5, from 11am.

Register at: www.tyhafan.org/hounds or contact 02920 672060.

Garden party

ON Saturday afternoon, August 11, Trinity Church, Stanwell Road, Penarth is holding a grand garden party and bake sale.

Scones, jam and cream tea, £1.50. There will also be a guess the weight of the cake competition and a raffle. Funds raised will be used for Trinity's good works in the community.

GWYBODAETH I YMWELWYR ANABL
Information for disabled visitors

Mae croeso i bawb yn yr Eisteddfod yn Llandw eleni. Os ydych yn anabl, gobeithio y bydd y cyngor isod yn eich helpu i gael ymweliad wrth eich bodd.

Dylai ymwelwyr anabl ddilyn yr arwyddion ar gyfer parcio anabl, sy'n arwain i faes parcio'r dwyrain o bob cyfeiriad. Dim ond un fynedfa sydd i'r Maes eleni ac mae'r maes parcio anabl wedi'i leoli'n agos at y fynedfa hon.

Yn y Ganolfan Groeso, mae'r ffenestri yn isel, sydd yn addas i bobl mewn cadeiriau olwyn. Yma hefyd mae sustem "loop" er mwyn cynnig cymorth i bobl sydd yn gwisgo teclyn clywed, a bydd hyn yn eich helpu wrth brynu tocynnau. Cofiwch y gallwch hefyd archebu tocynnau dros y we – www.eisteddfod.org.uk.

Mae cwmni 'Byw Bywyd' gyda ni eto eleni, a lleolir eu stondin wrth ymyl y Ganolfan Groeso, yn gyfleus iawn ar gyfer y brif fynedfa. Mae'r cwmni'n rhentu cadeiriau olwyn, a sgwteri am £10.00 y dydd. Er mwyn sicrhau darpariaeth, byddai'n syniad i chi archebu ymlaen llaw - rhif ffôn 01286 830 101, neu llenwch y ffurflen archebu ar ein gwefan. Dyma lle mae'r tywyswyr hefyd, sydd yn gwisgo crys "T" coch, gyda'r geiriau "YMA I HELPU". Mae'r tywyswyr yn gallu cynnig gwybodaeth am yr hyn sydd i'w gynnig ar y Maes, a hynny mewn sawl iaith.

Mae stiwardiaid (sydd hefyd ymhob un o adeiladau'r Eisteddfod) yno i gynnig cymorth ymarferol. Maent yn hawdd i'w hadnabod, yn gwisgo siacedi gwelededd uchel gwyrdd, coch, neu las. Ewch atynt gydag unrhyw broblem ymarferol, a byddent yn barod i'ch helpu, neu yn trefnu i rywun arall eich cynorthwyo.

Ymhob bloc o doiledau, mae un sydd wedi addasu ar gyfer bobl anabl, gyda ramp yn arwain atynt, ac yn y ddau brif floc o doiledau, mae toiled anghenion arbennig (high dependency). Mae clo ar y toiledau hyn sydd yn gweithio gyda goriad 'RADAR'. Os byddwch angen defnyddio'r rhain, a heb y goriad pwrpasol, ewch i stondin MENCAP, y Ganolfan Groeso neu Swyddfa'r Eisteddfod.

Mae ramp i fod i bob adeilad ar y maes. Os fyddwch yn cael trafferth i gael mynediad i unrhyw adeilad, rhowch wybod i swyddfa'r Eisteddfod ar unwaith. Darperir bws mini (wedi'i addasu ar gyfer pobl ag anableddau) gyda gyrrwr cymwys a thrwyddedig i fynd o amgylch y Maes trwy'r dydd. Gellir defyddio'r bws yma i deithio o fewn y Maes yn rhad ac am ddim.

Yn y Pafiliwn, neilltuir lle arbennig ar gyfer cadeiriau olwyn, a sedd gerllaw i dywyswyr. Gofynnir i chi archebu'r rhain ymlaen llaw, er mwyn sicrhau eich lle. Mae sustem "infra-red", sydd yn galluogi pobl gyda theclyn clust i wrando ar yr hyn sydd yn mynd ymlaen ar y llwyfan. Darperir sustem 'loop' ar gyfer pobl sydd â theclyn clust yn y Babell Lên yn ogystal.

Am ragor o fanylion neu os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiynau, ffoniwch 0845 4090 900 neu ewch i'r wefan,www.eisteddfod.org.uk"www.eisteddfod.org.uk

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Disabled drivers should follow the signs for disabled parking, which will lead you to the east car park from all directions. There is only one entrance to the Maes this year, and the disabled parking is nearby.

Windows are low in the Welcome Pavilion, and are suitable for wheelchair users. You can also buy your tickets online at *www.eisteddfod.org.uk"www.eisteddfod.org.uk.*

Living Life (Byw Bywyd) next to the Welcome Pavilion,.hires out wheelchairs and scooters for £10. per day, although you are advised to book ahead by ringing 01286 830 101, or complete order form on website.

Watch out for trained guides wearing red T-Shirts with the words 'HERE TO HELP' who can offer practical assistance. They wear green, red or blue high visibility jackets.

Every block of toilets has one adapted for people with disabilities A mini bus is provided (adapted for people with disabilities) The 'Infra-red' system enables people with hearing aids to listen to what's on the stage.

For more information, call 0845 4090 900 or contact www.eisteddfod.org.uk"www.eisteddfod.org.uk.

The summer comes to Barry Island, and so do the crowds!

Photographs by
ANDY WICKS

IT TOOK a long time but, eventually, blue skies and bright sunshine arrived – just like the Seventh Cavalry riding to the rescue!

Local traders at Barry Island had gritted their teeth so far this year as the rain fell and the stormy winds blew, but the last two weekends put smiles back on the faces of ice cream salesmen and cafe owners.

Overcoats and jumpers were swopped for shorts and T-shirts as everyone rushed out to ditch the fake tan and try for the genuine article.

As is clear from the photographs, people were keen to get out and swim in the sea, as well as posing for our photographer!

IN BUSINESS...

Who dunnit in the Vale?

SUMMER has arrived at last, and whether you are heading to some exotic destination, or simply enjoying some time off, why not relax with a crime novel written by a local author, Wonny Lea?

Introducing local author
WONNY LEA
(alias Yvonne Peters)
You can enjoy the escapades of local, fictional character, DCI Martin Phelps of Llantwit Major, courtesy of the under-mentioned thrillers
KILLING BY COLOURS
JACK-KNIFED
THE COOPERS FIELD MURDER
Set in Cardiff and the Vale, the familiar settings add to the appeal of the unravelling plots.
The above are all available as ebooks from Amazon, Booktango and Barnes & Noble.
For more details and direct links:
www.johnandyvonne.com
www.amazon.com/author/wonnylea

The main character, DCI Martin Phelps, lives in Llantwit Major and he and his team work from Cardiff Bay.

Some of the settings will be familiar – although maybe not as scenes of murder!

The author chose Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan as the focal point for the series and hopes you will enjoy reading about areas we all know and love.

For more details, and direct links, check out www.johnandyvonne.com

Expert legal advice can help secure your future

MANY people are not aware that even if you live in your partner's home (which is in their sole name) for many years, you may not have a right to the house if they died.

The law of property ownership and intestacy (where there is no will) is complicated and you should seek legal advice to make sure that your financial position is secure in the event of a breakdown of relationship or on death.

For advice on problems such as this, contact the family law team at Glamorgan Law – Susan Baker/Adrian Larby on 01446 771742.

GW glamorganlaw
Glamorgan Law
Incorporating Larby Williams with Gwyn & Gwyn and Beech & Co lawyers.
Richard Beech
Pamela Haines
Adrian Larby
Telephone: 01446 771 742
E-Mail: info@glamorganlaw.co.uk
The Pavilion, 60 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EE
www.glamlaw.co.uk
Glamorgan Law LLP is authorised and regulated by the S.R.A. (537490)

Author Eli launches book

LOCAL author Eli Keen is holding a book signing event for *A Book About Us*, at Living Coffee in Cowbridge this Friday, August 3 from 10am to 5pm.

A Book About Us invites readers on an adventure across the United Kingdom. It is a collection of four stories told by British children: Rhys from Wales, Sheena from Northern Ireland, Stuart from Scotland, and Vicki from England.

Combined with interesting trivia and some delightful images, the stories offer a glimpse into the children's home lives, sharing their hopes and dreams, and their own views of living in their respective countries.

A school counsellor, teacher and workshop leader, Eli explained: "The book provides the opportunity to learn more about ourselves, the relationship we have with each other, and about the beautiful planet we share and care for."

For this purpose *A Book About Us* has been designed to allow readers to write their own stories within the pages.

The book inspires children and young people to learn about each other, and think about where they come from and where they fit into the world.

One young reader, Leah B, commented: "It's a book that is full of life!"

For more information on this book, visit www.XlibrisPublishing.co.uk or contact Eli Keen directly via her website: www.livingtalks.com, or call 01446 678 762 – 07833 493 887

Meet local author
Eli Keen
for *promotional special offer* at book signings:
Friday 3rd August 10-5pm
Living Coffee, Cowbridge.
Saturday 11th August 10-5pm
Caffi Nia, Cowbridge.
Thursday 16th August 10-4pm
7+ Children's Workshop,
Cowbridge Library.
www.XlibrisPublishing.co.uk or contact Eli Keen directly via her websites ***www.livingtalks.com***
or call 01446 678 762 - 07833 493 887

Out and About with The GEM

Church concert

BRIDGEND Male Choir is performing in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major, tomorrow (August 3) at 7.30pm. For tickets, call 01446 790132 or 07948 485325.

Toys and trains

THE first ever Toy and Train sale at Barry Island Station is taking place on Sunday, August 5, by permission of John Buxton of Barry Tourist Railway (trains will also be operating throughout the event).

The actual platform, covered by a canopy, will be the location of many dealers from all over Wales and England, and as well as a huge variety of toys and trains, old and new, a few dealers will be offering railwayana.

Some stalls will also be located within the actual station building where a cafe will be operating throughout the day. The show runs from 10.30am-4pm.

It is possible to arrive at the fair by rail. There is limited on-street car parking, but there is a large car park close to the station.

Telephone 01643 702757 and 07966 694579; website www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk

FoE meeting

THE next meeting of Barry and Vale FoE will be at 7.30pm on August 7 in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street.

Members have accepted an invitation from FoE Cymru, to be on their stall at the National Eisteddfod in Llandow next week.

Having for many years held their meetings in the Castle Hotel, Barry and Vale FoE will also be discussing how they can assist the campaign to keep the public house open as a community facility.

Health event

THE Welsh Ambulance Service, British Deaf Association and Deaf Access Cymru, are hosting a free health information event for those who are deaf and hard of hearing on August 30, between 10am-4pm at Bethel Baptist Church Centre, Heol Miskin, Pontyclun.

For more information, contact alison.johnstone@wales.nhs.uk or call 01792 776252, ext. 5437.

Voices heard again in the Park

Pukka Potential are appearing on Saturday.

LOVERS of choirs should make the trip to Cadoxton this Saturday and Sunday (August 4-5) as the fabulous 'Voices in the Park' concert returns to Victoria Park for the second year.

This year, *Phantom of the Opera* star, Peter Karrie, appears live on Sunday afternoon.

Supporting Peter will be a fine line-up of our very own choirs, singers and artists. Starting on Saturday afternoon will be Superstars in the Making – Music and Dance Academy.

Saturday is all about choral music and group singing, with the fabulous kids of Pukka Potential and Pukka Perfection performing pop songs and music from all your favourite shows.

Barry Male Voice Choir, Barry Ladies' Choir and the Voices in the Park Choir will also be appearing to sing traditional and modern songs.

Sunday is packed with great solo singers, but begins with a set from local duo, Indigo Ribbon.

Then there is a tribute to Freddie Mercury, with favourite Queen hits, before a singer from last year's Voices, the superb Tim Reynolds, performs hits made famous by Michael Buble' and other singing legends.

Then Suzanne Jayne takes to the stage as Whitney Houston in a tribute to the well-loved diva of pop.

West End star, Peter Karrie, who tops the bill, has performed in major productions worldwide and is the biggest star to appear at Victoria Park.

Park Manager Jon Greatrex said: "I am so glad to have 'Voices' back in Victoria Park, and to welcome Peter Karrie and the other artists, to what I am sure will be a fantastic weekend.

"I would especially like to thank Dorothy Connell and Sarah and Duncan Creasey for all their hard work bringing this together.

"I hope everyone will come along, bring a picnic, and have a lovely couple of afternoons."

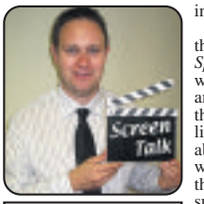
The concert starts at 1pm each day and admission is free.

As well as the music, there will be bouncy castles, funfair stalls and a craft area, refreshments, ice creams, and tea and cake on sale in the 'Room in the Park'.

Victoria Park is one of the Vale's finest parks, and recently received another Green Flag award; marking four years as the only Green Flag award-winning park in Barry.

Further details on 07809 551465, or: jgreatrex@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk. **JG**

Who needs sunshine when you can enjoy a summer of cinema?



by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

NOW that the summer holidays are here, it's a sure-fire bet that the good weather we've been having lately will give way to torrential rain – it's just the way these things work.

However, should such rainy weather occur, the one place where you can be sure of staying dry is the cinema.

Certainly, taking a family out for a night (or day) at a multiplex isn't a cheap option, but with most cinemas running discounts on a Tuesday, and with the Orange Wednesday offer available on (you guessed it) Wednesdays, those trips to the movies needn't be as expensive.

If you find yourself heading that way, there's plenty on offer for children of all ages.

With some films moving early to mark themselves out in the rush for their share of the summer box office, the likes of *Ice Age 4: Continental Drift* (U), which sees the fabled characters have to cope with continents splitting apart and trying to reunite with their families, and *The Lorax* (U), based on Dr Seuss' story of a boy determined to bring trees back to a barren landscape, are already occupying cinema screens, with both films coming in eye-popping 3D, which stands out far better than in live-action.

One film that breaks that rule is *The Amazing Spider-Man* (12A), which sees Peter Parker and his alter-ego battle the evil Lizard. With a lighter tone, this is suitable for most youngsters who are still requiring their dose of spandex superheroes.

For older children, Chris Nolan's final outing in charge of the Batman franchise, *The Dark Knight Rises* (12A) is also well worth catching. The film is wonderfully epic with an engaging story to support it, and in a summer of superheroes, is arguably the finest outing of all.

August 3 sees Pixar release their latest film, *Brave* (PG), which sees a headstrong princess unleash all manner of trouble when she is afflicted by a curse. Given Pixar's success rate, this should certainly be an enjoyable film, again coming in 3D.

The same date sees *Diary of a Wimpy Kid – Dog Days* (U) released, where the hapless Greg has to endure the summer holiday from hell where anything and everything goes wrong for him.

Youngsters with a love of dance could do worse than check out *Step Up 4* (PG) on August 10, which promises to be an eye-popping spectacle of some of the hottest dancing around, as dancers fight to keep a neighbourhood from being redeveloped.

Those who fancy a good dose of slapstick humour should watch out for *The Three Stooges* (PG) on August 17, as the Farrelly brothers (behind *There's Something About Mary*) bring the comedy trio into the 21st century.

With *Paranorman* (PG), a tale of a young boy who fights off zombies, bringing the holidays to a close on September 14, there's more than enough to keep you going through the next six weeks. *Who needs the sun eh?*

Barry RFC welcome Cardiff to home field

THIS Saturday, Barry Rugby Club begin their 125th season with a mouth-watering fixture against Cardiff RFC at the Reservoir Field, kick off 2.30pm.

The fixture is the first of a series of special fixtures being arranged for all sections of the club, for this anniversary year.

To get the crowd in the mood, the mini and junior section will provide some pre-match entertainment with a locally arranged game.

As a good crowd is expected, car parking will be located in Bryn Hafren school car park and not at the club car park, which will be closed for the day.

Weather permitting, a bouncy castle will be available on the field to keep the children occupied.

The day will also provide an opportunity for those yet to join our 'Brick Wall Project'; application forms will be available, just ask for Andy Jamieson.

Bricks are going fast, and with the closing date only a week away please make sure you are not disappointed.

The new special 125th anniversary ties and bow ties will also be on sale, so come and join us and help get the year off to good start!

ANDY JAMIESON

Plans to provide living and work spaces for artists

A NEW initiative – the Artist's Housing Co-Operative – a joint venture between Newydd Housing Association and the Vale Council, aims to provide combined living and workshop or studio space, owned on a co-operative basis with other artists in the Vale.

The new scheme is aimed at active artists, makers and artisans based in the Vale who use their talent to earn a living.

Often, the high cost of renting or buying a property which affords the luxury of a separate works space prices itself out of the reach of many artists.

The Artists' Housing Co-Operative offers a solution, as well as helping to create a community of artists in the area.

For more information, contact Alan Sinclair, Affordable Housing Enabler, Vale Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 2AT, or email: asinclair@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

OCEAN LOUNGE
PORTHKERRY
WE ARE NOW OPEN:
THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS &
ALL DAY & NIGHT ON SUNDAY TILL 10.30PM
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Every Friday & Saturday Night - plus Bingo
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IAIN REED
First Class Vocal Entertainer
Saturday 4th August
PAUL FORD Top Vocalist
Friday 10th August
KARAOKE
Saturday 11th August
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Outstanding Female Vocalist
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CURRY & A PINT £5.95
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www.firejoust.com
Tel. 01446 710362/711538

Don't miss this great event...
BARRY ISLAND TOY, TRAIN & RAILWAYANA SALE
SUNDAY, 5th AUGUST, 2012, 10.30am-4.00pm
On the platform (under the canopy) at Barry Island Railway Station, Station Approach, Barry Island, South Wales CF62 5TH.
(50 plus tables under the canopy)
STATION CAFÉ - TRAINS RUNNING ALL DAY
BUY ★ ★ SELL ★ ★ EXCHANGE
Many top dealers in Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, EFE, Lledo, Britains, Hornby Trains, Wrenn, Bachmann, Lima, etc and much, much more
Admission £1.65 - Child/OAP £1.25
Enquiries: 01643 702757 or 07966 694579
E-Mail: dyer@minehead46.freeserve.co.uk
Website: www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk

Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Information Day
The Older People's Commissioner for Wales is an independent champion for older people across Wales.
We want to hear from you
Find out more about how we can help you, tell us what is important to you and learn about our work.
Murchfield Community Centre
Sunny Croft Lane
Dinas Powys
13 August 2012 | 10am to 12pm

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL SAYS FAREWELL TO TEACHER

THE end of term celebrations at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School were tinged with sadness as reception teacher, Mrs Linda Forrester, was retiring.

Mrs Forrester has been at All Saints some 25 years since the school's early days and has taught a range of age groups.

She received many cards, gifts and good wishes and the staff paid a special tribute to her during the celebration assembly, with a surprise performance.

Everyone wore a 'Linda mask' and sang a humorous rendition of 'So Long, Farewell' from The Sound of Music.

The children and Mrs Forrester enjoyed it immensely and there was hardly a dry eye in the hall!

Presenting her with a beautiful hand-made quilt as a gift from the staff, headteacher Richard Ware thanked Mrs Forrester for her many years of hard work and said that she would be missed by both staff and pupils. He wished her a long and happy retirement.

Later, at her leaving party at a local restaurant, Mrs Forrester was presented with a beautiful cake made by her friend and colleague, Sharon Smith. **NM**

ABOVE: Mrs Linda Forrester has taught at All Saints for 25 years.

Linda with colleagues.

Linda, with headteacher Richard Ware, about to open her retirement present.

Centenary open day visitor William Miles (seven) takes 'control' in the Lafarge Cement Aberthaw Works central control room, watched and guided by Lafarge's control room operator Aiden Farrell.

LAFARGE OPENS WORKS DOORS FOR CENTENARY

THE sun shone on Lafarge Cement's Aberthaw Works recently as they welcomed more than 200 people to an open day to celebrate 100 years of operation.

The day gave visitors an opportunity to meet employees and talk with them about their roles on site, as well as taking part in a guided tour of the works. An exhibition was also held to give people an insight into the changes that have occurred over the century of operations at Aberthaw.

Works manager James Kirkpatrick said: "We are delighted that so many people took time out to come and help us celebrate our centenary.

"Aberthaw Works has played a very important part in the local economy and communities of the Vale for a long time. It was important to us to mark this milestone by opening up our doors for people to come on site and find out more about our operation in the 21st Century."

The company's celebrations continued into the evening with a party for current and former employees, hosted by Sir Brooke Boothby at Fonmon Castle.

The event included speeches from Lafarge representatives, including the company's UK president, Dyfrig James (who comes from Carmarthenshire), an entertaining talk by Welsh rugby legend Phil Bennett, and a performance from Welsh comedian, Mike Doyle.

EISTEDDFOD STALLS (See code for locations on right of columns)

MAPS will be available at the National Eisteddfod site in Llandow to direct you to the precise location you want.

A
1000 a mwy o fywydau Maes Gwyrdd
... a chrefft Neuadd Arddangos N18
a.r.c.i.p e.l.a.g.o 1140
Abby Hanson – Disconnected Neuadd Wales Arddangos N15
Academi Hywel Teifi/ Prifysgol Abertawe S128
Action on Hearing Loss Cymru 821-822
Achub y Plant 1136
Adra 103-104
Age Cymru S123
Amgueddfa Cymru 515-518
Amgueddfa Glowyr De Cymru 1138
Amgylchedd Cymru Maes Gwyrdd
Amser i Newid Cymru 1023
Anne Morgan - Gemwaith Neuadd Arddangos N24
Arianne Jewellery 826
Ash Cymru 823-824
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Athrofa Gwyrddorau
Biofeddygol Gwyddoniaeth a Thechnoleg
Awen Meirion cyf 601-602
B
Babell Heddwch (Y) 113-114
Barddas 1029-1030
Bay Resourcing – Prif asiantaeth ysgolion Cymraeg 1110
Beacons Creative (Cyngor Crefft Cymru) 313-316
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Cadwch Gymru'n Daclus 832-834
Cadwyn 615-616
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Canolfan Cymry Llundain 1116
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Castell Aberteifi 802
Cefnlen 1201-1203
Celf Ffibr Cymru Neuadd Arddangos N08
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Coleg Penybont M03-M04
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Cyngor Tref Y Barri Neuadd Arddangos N17
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AN EVENT TO THRILL THE VALE... SATURDAY 4TH - SATURDAY 11TH AUGUST

EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORGANNWG
VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

'Eisteddfod important for our Welsh nation'

I'M delighted to be able to welcome the National Eisteddfod to the Vale of Glamorgan – the first to be held in the county since the Barry Eisteddfod in 1968.

The Vale of Glamorgan has important cultural and historical links with both the Eisteddfod and the Welsh language.

The founder of the Gorsedd of the Bards, Iolo Morganwg – the bardic name of William Edwards – was born near Rhoose, and was brought up in Flemingston, near St Athan.

I'm honoured and privileged to have been nominated to join the Gorsedd at this year's Eisteddfod.

The Eisteddfod is an important event for us as a nation. It's one of our finest arts and cultural festivals, and provides us with an opportunity to celebrate our culture, our heritage, and our language.

The Welsh language is an important and defining characteristic of Wales. It belongs to all the people of Wales – Welsh speakers and non-Welsh speakers alike.

The Vale has seen a substantial increase in the number of Welsh speakers in recent years. This is largely due to the Welsh-medium education.

For example, the percentage of seven-year-olds in Welsh-medium education in the Vale has risen from 10.9 per cent in 2001 to 13.7 per cent in 2011.

There are now five Welsh-medium primary schools and one secondary school in the Vale.

These include the two Welsh-medium primary schools in Llantwit Major and Barry that opened in September 2011.

The challenge, however, is to go one step further and provide opportunities for children and young people to enjoy using Welsh outside school.

Earlier this year, we launched our new Welsh language strategy – '*A living language: a language for living*'.

It focuses on helping people to use Welsh in everyday life, including through new technology and social media.

The future development and survival of the language will need fresh ideas and must be owned by each and every one of us in Wales.

by **CARWYN JONES**
AM for Bridgend, Counsel General and Leader of the House.

I wish this year's Eisteddfod every success, and thank all those who have worked so hard to bring the Eisteddfod back to the Vale.

CARWYN JONES,
First Minister of Wales

Local company will SiteServ(e) Eisteddfod

MORE than 100 tons of waste will be generated at the Eisteddfod this year, but more than 95 per cent of that will be recycled thanks to a sponsorship deal with local waste management company, SiteServ Recycling.

Based in Llandow and Pencoed, SiteServ achieve recycling rates of over 150,000 tons each year, continuously investing in systems and processes to ensure the highest recyclable recovery rates on all waste.

In fact, a typical week will see the company produce 200 tons of cardboard, 100 tons of newspaper waste, 95 tons of office paper and 20 tons of plastic bottles for recycling. They also handle some 35 tons of polythene and 10 tons of glass each week.

With the latest sorting and segregation technologies and state-of-the-art waste processing machinery, SiteServ offers flexible collection services that include bulk waste handling, hazardous waste disposal, fluorescent tube and computer recycling, municipal waste recycling, paper and cardboard collection and recycling and the secure destruction of confidential waste.

Managing director of SiteServ Recycling, Nigel England, said: "Zero landfill is a target that we must all embrace if we are to meet the increasing requirements of EU legislation and the needs of future generations.

"We actively support many local initiatives and are delighted to be sponsoring the Eisteddfod this year."

Established in 2002, SiteServ Recycling is a specialist waste management company working with businesses and public sector organisations to help achieve zero landfill.

Further information is available at: www.siteservrecycling.com

Straw bale recording studio at Eisteddfod!

A STRAW bale recording studio is being built on the site of National Eisteddfod in Llandow by Hafod Mastering.

It plans to invite a number of bands and artists who will be playing during the Eisteddfod week to do 'unplugged' acoustic sessions at the studio.

Several stalwarts of the south Wales recording industry – Charlie Francis, Llion Robertson, Gethin John and the legendary Krissy Jenkins will be guest producers through the course of the week.

The recording will be made available for purchase online almost immediately, so that Eisteddfod-goers can download these unique recordings straight onto their smartphones.

The studio will be sited on the Maes Gwyrdd (Green Field) part of the festival site.

This will be the first time the Eisteddfod has set aside a corner of the festival to promote alternative and sustainable ways of living.

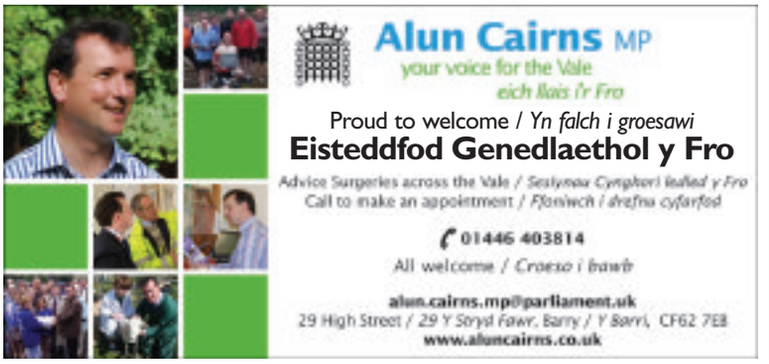
PERFORMING AT EISTEDDFOD!

THE Vale Council has been offering aspiring artists a chance to work and perform with two leading performance artists at this year's National Eisteddfod.

Phil Babot and Cathy Gordon have been hosting a performance art workshop at Palmerston Community Centre every day this week from 10am to 5pm for over-16s of all skill levels.

The participants will be given the chance to perform at the Art Central Gallery at Barry Town Hall, King Square, on August 4 and at the Eisteddfod in Llandow on August 5.

For informaion email: tcharding@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, or telephone 01446 700111.



END OF TERM NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT YSGOL BRO MORGANNWG

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Beth Humphreys (year-7) on becoming National French Spelling Bee champion 2012.

The final was held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth on Friday, July 13. We are very proud of her. Très bien Beth!

Olympic training

A GROUP of pupils went to watch athletes from Trinidad and Tobago, Botswana and New Zealand, as well as Penarth's Brett Morse, training for the Olympic Games at Leckwith Stadium.

They also took part in a questions and answers session.

Health and Fairtrade day

ON July 16, all pupils and teachers at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg were involved in a 'Health and Fairtrade Day'.

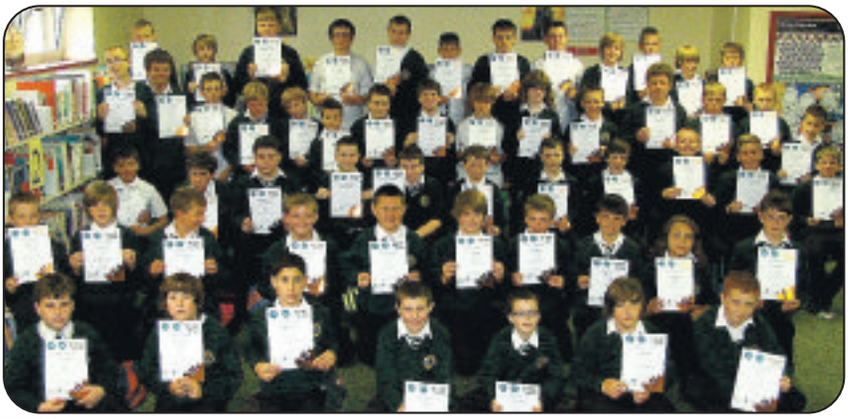
We invested in Fairtrade equipment, in order to provide a wide variety of physical activities.

There was also a chance for pupils to cook with Fairtrade ingredients, as well as to find Fairtrade goodies, as they went on a treasure hunt around the school.

We hope to have developed pupils' education of Fairtrade in order to win the recognition as a Fairtrade school in 2013. **MT**

End of term news from Barry Comprehensive

The pupils have been working hard to improve their literacy and numeracy.



ABOVE: Barry Comprehensive School students proudly display their British Science Association Bronze CREST Award certificates.

BARRY*Comprehensive School students took part in the British Science Association's CREST awards this year – a project-based awards scheme for the STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.*

The award requires students to demonstrate motivation and problem-solving skills, and helps students to become better prepared for the investigative skills needed at GCSE.

Four classes in years 7 and 8 took part in the bronze CREST award during their science lessons. They were required to investigate forgery using both internet research and practical activities.

The students did extremely well at completing the tasks to a good standard. Their findings were then written up in a scientific report.

A total of 48 students from the four classes completed the award to gain the award.

Well done to all the students involved!

AC

Catch-Up report

BARRY Comprehensive School's catch-up programme is designed to improve students' literacy and numeracy, and ensure they reach their full potential.

It involves students attending a literacy session twice a week to focus on reading, spelling key words and writing.

The students have been able to access a wide range of different texts and have improved their reading scores significantly when assessed at the end of the initiative.

Catch-Up Numeracy focuses on developing students' key skills on a one-to-one basis with a member of staff.

When assessed at the end of the initiative, students had made very pleasing progress in terms of numeracy.

AC

PGL trip

ON June 16, year-8 and 9 students from Barry Comprehensive School took part in water sports from snorkelling to kayaking on the Mediterranean Sea.

The boys joined a Bradford school on the journey there, which gave everyone an opportunity to make new friends.

The enthusiastic group stayed in four-berth tents and were served three meals a day by the staff, followed in the evenings by lively entertainment from Robot Wars until 'the disco', which got everyone dressing up in some unique fashion costumes!

At the end of the week everyone agreed that it was a great way to build new friendships and develop leadership and teamwork skills.

David Gent, year-11

Little Shop of Horrors brings term to an end!

Little Shop cast : The Team Supreme!

Hannah, Charlotte, Megan, Lili, Kelly and Amy – The Ronnettes

OVER the last few years the Creative Arts Faculty at Barry Comprehensive School has been responsible for producing some truly outstanding school productions including *West Side Story, Jesus Christ Superstar, Les Misérables* and *Evita*.

In July, that tradition of producing West End quality performances continued with the summer production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Featuring a brand new cast, this performance entertained and delighted audiences over three nights, with many commenting that this was the best show yet!

This performance was a truly incredible achievement. Not only did it feature a number of students making their stage debut, but also the majority of the cast had been sitting GCSE and AS/A' Level examinations during the rehearsal process.

This meant that the cast was not able to work together until just three weeks before the first curtain up!

As well as a slick and professional performance on stage, the production featured live music from both staff and students.

Once again, the Creative Arts Faculty have been delighted with the sense of teamwork involved in the creation of this performance, with all members of the cast making their own contributions to the development of the piece:

"It really would not have been the same without their input and creativity.

On behalf of the whole production team I would like to say thank you to everyone on and off the stage for making this show the success that it was," said Mr Ian Piekielniak.

AC

ABOVE:
Seymour, Audrey, and the carnivorous plant!

YSGOL DEWI SANT'S SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

WHAT a year! As they approached the end of a successful first year in their new school, the children at Ysgol Dewi Sant were as busy as ever.

Activities included celebrating a green day, creating a sea-side in a bottle and holding a teddy-bear's picnic.

Although the weather was too miserable to walk to the park, the children and the bears enjoyed a picnic and games in the hall instead!

The children also used many of the ingredients they'd planted and grown themselves in their garden, to make all types of savoury treats!

Fun was had on mini-beast day when staff and children dressed up as one of their favourite bugs.

The youngsters made wormeries and homes for the ladybirds, painted masks and finger puppets, went on a mini-beast hunt in the school grounds, before eating honey sandwiches.

Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the activities and the children have worked hard all year. *Da iawn!*

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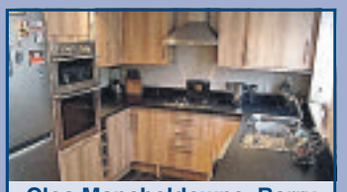

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- Scheme Co-ordinator
- Gardens and parking

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- Double-glazing

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- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH

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- Scheme Co-ordinator
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H4U Reference 329488
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- Double-glazing
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- Parking

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- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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OAK COURT, PENARTH

H4U reference 1093125
Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical needs)
- Studio (second floor, lift)
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Scheme Manager
- Community alarm

Rent £91.90 per week including service charge

OAK COURT, PENARTH

H4U reference 1091685
Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical needs)
- Flat (first floor with lift)
- Walk-in shower
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Scheme Manager/alarm

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H4U reference 243200
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- On-site warden/alarm

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H4U reference 228212
Suitable for a single person couple or family–no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £80.00 per week including water charges

PLASSEY STREET, PENARTH

Hafod Housing Association Limited is developing a scheme of sixteen one and two-bedroom flats in Plassey Street, Penarth, which will be available for letting in late September 2012.

The block is part of a scheme of flats for rent and low cost home ownership.

We invite members of the HOMES4U scheme only to submit expressions of interest to rent in this scheme and to ensure those are received by **Wednesday 8 August.**

Failure to meet the closing date will mean that your request for consideration will not be included in the shortlisting process.

ELFED AVENUE, PENARTH

Newydd Housing Association are proud to announce the release of three four bed properties. These high quality, energy efficient homes will be ready for occupation in September 2012

We are committed to providing a safe and sustainable environment and will be asking for references or carrying out interviews with prospective tenants to achieve the full potential for this development. Bids are invited for these four-bedroom houses.

Preference will be given to:
- existing social housing tenants who have a priority need to be rehoused and have an excellent tenancy history, with no record of arrears or anti-social behaviour; and
- applicants with a local work or life connection to Penarth.

(H4U Reference 1093045)

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.

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Lily and family wish to thank all friends and neighbours for all their kind messages and lovely cards received following their sad loss.
Very special thanks to W A Brown & Son and Reverend Huw Butler for the lovely service.

JUPP
John Heaton
11.8.1935 – 25.7.2012
Peacefully in the Marie Curie Centre, Velindre Hospital, after a long illness bravely and stoically fought, John of Rhoose, beloved and devoted husband of Pat, a dear and respected father of Phillip and loving father-in-law of Sheila.
A service of thanksgiving and remembrance in John's memory is to be held in St Marys Church, Penmark on Tuesday, August 7 at 1pm after a private cremation.
By request family flowers only, but donations in lieu to Holme Tower in John's memory if wished, c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ. For further information contact W James & Sons, Fonmon, 01446 710096.

HODSOLL
Alan Geoffrey
On July 21 at the Marie Curie Unit, Velindre Hospital, Alan of Peterston-Super-Ely, beloved husband of Bonnie, dearly loved father and grandfather.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday August 3, service and interment 2pm at Peterston-Super-Ely Parish Church. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

JENKINS, Neil
Kath, Alex, Dan, Thomas and families would like to thank everyone for the many condolence cards and flowers received. We have been overwhelmed by all the support. We would also like to extend our gratitude to everyone who attended Neil's funeral and a special thanks to Reverend David Boult and Sam Smith for a beautiful service.
Neil was loved by so many and he is greatly missed.

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on **2nd August**

To our little Princess. Couldn't imagine our lives without you!
All our love, Mum, Dad, big sister Chloe, family and friends.
x x x

Thank You

Mary's (Bernice's) BIG BIRTHDAY

I'd like to thank all my family and friends for their lovely cards and presents.
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CADSTOCK MUSIC FESTIVAL WOWS LARGE CROWDS AT BARRY'S VICTORIA PARK

THE Cadstock music festival is now a popular annual event at Barry's Victoria Park.

These images by local photographers Lauren Allen and Andy Wicks show just some of the hundreds of people that turned up over the festival weekend.

The event gives talented local bands the chance to play – and strut – their stuff.

IMAGES by Lauren Allen

PHOTO by ANDY WICKS

PHOTO by ANDY WICKS

Mayor shows off his bowling skills!

The Mayor of Barry, Coun Les Sword, attended Barry Veteran Bowlers Association in Penarth on Thursday, July 19, where they played against Mountain Ash. The Mayor also took part in the game and the outcome of the match was a draw.

NEWS FROM BARRY AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

Ryan takes top trophy for Barry

BARRY Amateur Swimming Club recently held its annual Cardiff Bay Sprint meet, previously known as the Cardiff and Vale Sprint meet.

The event was started by a club member, Brian Hardwick, who was very involved with Welsh swimming. Brian was a member of Barry for some time before he sadly passed away.

This year's event was held on a Saturday, with 440 swimmers taking part.

Barry had 22 swimmers, many of them swimming the event for the first time.

Swimming in the 15-year-old age group, Georgia Looker took third place in the 50-metre breast stroke in a time of 42.45 seconds, with Ffion Goodland just behind her in fourth.

Gaining a first place was Luke Birnage in the 50-metre breast stroke, 10-year-old age group, in a time of 47.18, which was a personal best.

In the 12-year-old boys' age group, Ryan Connor gained a fantastic second place in a time of 42.84, with Shaun Bowden not far behind in sixth place in a time of 44.02, which was a personal best.

In the 50m back stroke in the girls' 15-year-old age group Georgia Looker was second in a time of 36.46. Ffion again was not far behind, this time sixth in a time of 48.35.

For the boys' 50m back stroke in the 11-year-old age group, Declan Ewington came in second place in a time of 41.05, which was a half a second improvement on his previous time.

Once again, Ryan Connor swam well in the back stroke in his age group and gained a first place in a time of 38.14, which was an improved personal best of nearly four seconds.

In the 50m butterfly, Georgia Looker was first in her age group in a time of 32.98, a personal best by more than half a second.

In the 13-year-old age group, Llinos Goodland improved her personal best by more than 14 seconds, which is a massive amount.

Working hard in the boys' butterfly in his age group, Ryan Connor gained a fantastic first in a time of 34.26. Also in this age group, James Hamer and Sam Smith improved their personal bests by more than 10 seconds.

In the 50m freestyle, Georgia Looker gained another first place in a time of 31.22, with Ffion Goodland again not far behind in fourth in a time of 40.23.

Ryan Connor, in the boys' 50m freestyle, recorded a personal best of 33.55 for third.

Bethan Williams (12) had a very good swim and was first in her age group in a time of 46.69 for the kick race. This race is for swimmers to kick the length of the pool holding a float.

Most of the swimmers who do this event say that it is harder than swimming normally, and it is something that they would normally do as a training exercise.

Barry Swimming Club had eight in the final IM, a fantastic achievement for such a small club.

Swimming in the 9-year-old age group, Thomas Pugh very sadly got disqualified but did very well to get into there.

Luke Birnage, in the 10-year-old age group ,was seventh in the 200m, IM was seventh in a time of 3m:40s.03.

Again, very sadly after swimming so well all day, Declan Ewington was disqualified in his 11-year-old age group, but did well to get to the final.

Having not long joined the club and swimming very well, Naomi Hills (11) came 10th in a time of 3:29.38.

Having had such a good day, Ryan Connor, in his 12-year-old age group, came fourth in a time of 2:59.64.

In the 15-year-old girls' age group, Barry had two swimmers, which is a fantastic achievement.

Georgia Looker came in third in a time of 2:50.53 and Ffion Goodland, in a time of 3:27.72, gained a fourth place. Many of the swimmers in the IM had not swam the event before.

Ryan Connor was awarded the Brian Hardwick Cup for the best 12-year-old boy for the whole event. This Cup was presented by Brian's daughter Rhian and grandchildren who swim for Cardiff Swimming Club.

Rhian was very proud that a swimmer from Barry won the Cup, but hopes that her son, 12 next year, might get a chance to win it.

The club would like to thank everyone who helped with this event as it is such hard work and was a long day. Without all the helpers, and all the officials from all over Wales helping, it would not be able to run.

Barry Amateur Swimming Club is always looking for new members, so if you would like a trial, phone Mrs Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784. We swim at Barry Leisure Centre on Monday, Friday and Sunday and Cardiff International Pool on Monday and Thursday. For more information, look on the Barry Amateur Swimming Club website. **TW**

RIGHT: Ryan Connor receives the Brian Hardwick Cup from his daughter Rhian and her two sons.

PUMAS CELEBRATE A GREAT SEASON

Squad, LEFT to RIGHT: Eilir, Finnian, Jack J, Coby, Charlie, Adem. Front row: Aeron, Brad, Max, Ben, Jack H, Michael. Missing from photo: Devon and Sonny.

ON Sunday, July 22, Porthkerry Pumas under-8s celebrated their first full season with a barbecue and presentation at Amelia Trust farm.

The boys had an hour of football followed by sausages and burgers before being presented with their trophies by coaches Stuart Gordon and Jamie Burns.

As one of the youngest teams in the league the Pumas had some difficult games, but performed remarkably well for a first season and played some great football!

Many thanks to the coaches, organiser Anita, shirt sponsor O'Donovan's Hardware of High Street, and all the mums and dads who ferried them in some appalling weather!

Team want players

CADOXTON Barry FC, headed by new management for the coming season, has registered three senior squads and one youth squad to play at various levels throughout south Wales.

Much to the delight of the players the club is returning to its ancestral home of Bryn-y-Don to play all future home fixtures, and is seeking a number of new and old players who can be accommodated at all levels.

If you are a player looking for a game or a team looking for the support of a big club, please telephone or e-mail one of the numbers or addresses below:

Alan Bickley: 07891 862844 (a.bickley1@ntlworld.com); Dave Eveleigh: 07816 461656 (dje5@sky.com); Mark Ellis: 07779 119146 (ellis_mark@hotmail.com); Tommy Taylor: 07920 263615 (tommytaylor0@googlemail.com). **AB**

TWO BARRY GYMNASTS EARN WALES SELECTION

Celyn and Mali are celebrating selection for the Welsh squads.

TWO young Barry YMCA gymnasts have lots to smile about after securing coveted spots in the Welsh Gymnastics Development squad.

Seven-year-old Celyn Powell and six-year-old Mali Morgan attended a training session led by the Welsh national squad coaches, where they undertook a variety of activities which demonstrated areas such as their flexibility, strength and their enthusiasm for the sport. Both impressed the national coaches.

Celyn gained a space in the seven-year-old development group and now attends monthly squad training sessions at the National Training Centre in Sophia Gardens.

Mali was one of only eight gymnasts, and the only six-year-old, to be selected into the Elite Development Squad, which sees her attending weekly sessions at the National Training Centre.

Celyn and Mali are coached at Barry YMCA Gymnastics Club by Stacey Webb, herself a long-standing Welsh squad and Welsh Academy gymnast, who represented Wales on many occasions and was reserve for the Commonwealth Games Team in Australia.

In the future, both Celyn and Mali hope to emulate the success of their clubmate, 15-year-old Kiera Brennan, who has been a long-standing member of the Welsh squad, and is currently a member of the Welsh senior squad and the Welsh Gymnastics Academy.

Kiera has gained international honours on numerous occasions and recently placed in the top 10 at the British Junior Championships.

Another 15-year-old, Olivia Parry, also secured Welsh squad selection recently, but this time in the Welsh Tumbling squad.

Olivia used to be a long-standing member of the Welsh Artistic squad, but decided to try her hand at the gymnastics discipline of tumbling. Her background in artistic gymnastics gave her a great grounding and resulted in her selection to the Welsh Tumbling squad.

Congratulations to all gymnasts and coaches.

To find out more about gymnastics opportunities at Barry YMCA, call 01446 724001.

Tennis club's finals day

DINAS Powys LTC recently held its annual handicap tournament finals day.

After several weeks of competitive matches, the day saw the conclusion of each event take place.

The handicap tournament provides an opportunity for players of a range of abilities to compete on the level against some of the top players in the club.

In fact, this year's action saw many of the experienced team players fall short in the early stages of the tournament rounds.

On a fantastic finals day the crowds were drawn up to the club to watch a number of highly contested finals, great entertainment and a very good standard of tennis played by all those competing.

Along with the enjoyable tennis the bar was open throughout the day and a lovely lunch was put on by members of the club so everyone enjoyed another successful day at the tennis club.

Club president David Warne, assisted by ladies' captain Judith Meddins, presented each winner and runner-up with their prizes at the evening presentation.

The singles winners were Freda Emery and Andrew Kennedy, and the doubles winners were Paul Arcos and Mark Jones, and Juliet Newman and Margaret Rees; the mixed doubles winners were Eliot Grant and Debbie Rose.

A big thank you must go to club captains – Chris Evans and Judith Meddins, for a very well organised tournament and a great finals day.

If anyone is interested in joining Dinas Powys Tennis Club, or to find out about future events, contact membership secretary, Phil Stott, on 029 20512895 for further information. **NW**

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Sponsors' Cup day a success at St Andrews

SPONSORS Cup Day at St Andrews Major Golf Club has always been one of the most popular events in the club's golfing calendar, and this year was no exception.

Some 21 teams from businesses in the south Wales area took part in a fun filled day.

The four par three holes were sponsored by local businesses, where a monetary prize awaited anyone who achieved a hole in one; our thanks to PHH Environmental, Select Flooring and Mike Jones Plastering for sponsoring these holes.

Although nobody actually achieved a hole in one there were some very near misses!

After a brief stop at the halfway house where guests were treated to complimentary food and drink, it was off again to complete the final nine holes.

The 10th hole was the main target of the day where a hole in one would win £15,000 towards the car of their choice, sponsored by Wessex Garages.

Unfortunately, nobody won the car, but several came very close and our thanks to Wessex Garages for their sponsorship.

There were numerous excellent prizes available but last year's winners, the Tuitti Fruitties, made up from members of the ladies' section, could only manage fourth place.

PHH Environmental had two teams taking part and there was a bit of friendly banter taking place as to which of the teams had actually secured enough points to get into the prize category, but a quick check on the names soon resolved the issue.

Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the day and are eagerly looking forward to next year's event.

JL

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Good times for Seaview Lads

ABOVE: The captor of the fat (40lb) cod is Kevin Sewell.

SEAVIEW lads have been active both locally and on tour recently and have enjoyed some excellent sport.

Summer is here at last and recent catches have reflected the diversity of species we enjoy along our shoreline with bass, rays, dogs, mullet and eels making up recent bags.

Boatfishing has been mixed with excellent bags in May while wind hampered fishing in June, and catches reflected this.

Our foreign delegates have just returned from a trip to Norway. The final day's fishing saw 1,250lb caught, mostly cod.

The total for the week was a massive 6,335lb of back breaking fish – puts things in perspective.

Results: Sunday, July 8: First – Glyn Warner, 3lb 8oz bass. Second – Lucky Lougher, 1lb 3oz mullet.

Wednesday, July 4: First – Lee Thompson, 6lb 3oz Conger. Second – Aida Harris 1lb 14oz LSD. Third – Mickey Langford, 1lb 4oz LSD. Fourth – Kevin Salih, 15oz LSD.

'Fishathon' raises £3,000 for Y Bont

Event winner, Rob Crewes-Rees with Marged Griffiths.

Junior winner, Liam Fraser.

OVER the weekend of June 29-July 1, at Treoes Lakeside, Bridgend, the Glamorgan Anglers held their annual 48-hour 'Fishathon' in aid of Y Bont, a local charity for children with a disability.

Around 32 hardy and determined club members fished the event, enduring wind and rain to raise £2,845 for the charity, with a further £318 raised in Gift Aid!

Marged Griffiths, general manager at Y Bont, presented the prizes to the winners and accepted the cheque, thanking the club members for their generosity:

"Raising money is becoming more and more difficult in the current climate and we rely heavily on the support of local people and groups to help keep Y Bont running.

"Y Bont is a unique provision in the area and there is no similar service for the families who access its support. Every penny raised will be used directly to help local children and their families."

Prizewinners were: Event winner – Rob Crewes-Rees, 323lb; Junior winner – Liam Fraser; Women's winner – Jenny Collins; Biggest Silver – Kevin Hunt; Biggest Carp – John Hatter.

MG

Dockers FC are training

DOCKERS FC are currently training on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6.15pm start, at Pencoedtre Playing Fields. New players are welcomed to train with both the First and Second teams.

JH

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Cadoxton undone by St Peters

CADOXTON continued to lose ground in their attempt to stave off relegation from ML3 when they visited Roath Park for this game against St Peters, who, prior to the game, were also in dire straits.

Only the rink skipped by Howard Craven had any success with a plucky display on a difficult green. They took first blood with three shots during the first two ends, but after six ends they trailed 6-3.

Two singles narrowed the lead, before a '4' regained the advantage. This superiority was held for the remainder of the game, although a late flurry from the home side kept the result in the balance until the last end.

Phil, and the two Bills, played a big part in setting up a very tight head, which was finalised when Howard drew the shot with his last bowl to ensure the win.

Graham Brown's rink had some early success and led 9-6 after nine ends. They moved on to tie the scores at 11-11, but two '3's took away the initiative.

Two '2's shortened the difference, before seven were lost in the next three ends to leave them nine down going into the final end. The two shots scored were not enough.

Don Kuhnell was fighting an uphill battle on his rink. Although the green was not very true; as on all the rinks, the position was not helped by constant tight bowls played by his team. As a result any chance of victory was dwindling away until the mat was brought up the green.

This started a spirited comeback which reduced a 12-shot deficit to just four shots.

However, a jack under-delivered gave the chance back to the opposition to revert back to their favoured length, which produced two '4's and a '3' to take the ensuing result out of sight.

A similar pattern emerged on the rink skipped by Kelvin Chedgzoy, which found little chance of progressing, and trailed 3-12 after eight ends. This was followed by a better period which reduced the difference to just two shots on the 14th end.

Unfortunately, a '5' was conceded on the next and this set-back was never recovered.

Scores: P Ellis, W Vaughan, W Eadie, H Craven – 19-16; G Solomon, D Evans, D Brook, G Brown – 17-24; T Bishop, L Cundliffe, L Davies, D Kuhnell – 19-30; D Tuck, M Mathews, J Davies, K Chedgzoy – 14-23. ***Final score: 69-93***.

DK

Volvo might try a driver's patience...

Motoring by Tim Saunders

PATIENCE is a virtue.

That's what I've always been told. Sadly, though this isn't one of my strengths and it shows when I run late.

I've got a meeting at Gwel an Mor, Portreath, Cornwall at 4pm, and despite leaving Hampshire at 10am, it looks as if I'm not going to make it in time.

So the Volvo S80 D5 SE Lux Geartronic four door saloon has a tough job to please me over this 200-mile journey, which the AA says can be covered in four hours.

When there's a straight run, the Volvo is a delight – the six-speed automatic box is generally smooth, occasionally a little jerky. The intelligent cruise control cleverly keeps the car a safe distance behind the car in front and even automatically accelerates as long as the vehicle ahead is moving.

Disappointingly, it doesn't operate at standstill, requiring driver intervention. When the Volvo isn't following a vehicle, cruise control works at speeds of 20mph and above.

It's on overtaking that this system becomes frustrating, because the S80 maintains the speed of the vehicle it was behind, making it necessary for the driver to kick the accelerator and override the system.

Once you realise this, there's no problem, but it might be useful if the car could sense when it's overtaking and act accordingly.

Over a long journey it becomes apparent that there are too many distractions from safety gadgets for my liking. The lane departure function makes an annoying buzz whenever the sleek Swede strays over the centre-line of the road or something comes into its path, which happens a lot, to my surprise and eventual irritation.

Thankfully, this can be switched off, although it automatically comes back on every time the engine is started.

The BLIS (Blind Spot Information System) function that sees a red light flash on the inside of either wing mirror, when a vehicle is present, is helpful.

But this, combined with the lane departure function, and the flashing light that appears on the dash, when an object such as a traffic light is a little close for the Volvo's liking, proves too annoying for me.

Undoubtedly these safety features are very worthy but they end up making me take my eyes off the road. Perhaps this is because I am unfamiliar with the vehicle, as I explain in my video at testdrives.biz.

My concern is that drivers could become lazy by relying on these functions and then forget themselves when driving other vehicles.

These qualms do not detract from the fact that the S80 is an excellent long distance companion, with plenty of power when required.

This diesel will travel from 0 to 60mph in just 8.1 seconds and onto 140mph, laws permitting. The interior is incredibly comfortable, light, airy and spacious.

The front seats cosset their passengers in a way that few others do – they are even electrically heated and cooled. I particularly like the cold function, as leather does have a tendency to get sticky on a hot day.

So, despite my moans we arrive at Gwel an Mor, Cornwall thoroughly relaxed.

Unfortunately, the near side rear tyre suffered a puncture and to my surprise there is no warning light on the dashboard to alert me – and I can't tell when I'm driving.

I only discover the sorry looking rubber on my arrival in Cornwall. In common with other manufacturers, Volvo no longer provides a spare wheel, instead a puncture repair kit that plugs into the cigarette lighter.

A solution from a bottle screwed to the kit is then pumped through the tyre in about seven minutes, temporarily repairing the puncture. Once this process is complete the Volvo can be driven up to 50mph for no more than a few hundred miles.

On locking the S80 for the night, I have an issue with the lights. Although lights on a Volvo have always automatically switched on and off there is the option to turn them on manually, which I do and then proceed to forget that I've done so.

Often a helpful buzzer sounds to alert you of your error – even in my ageing Fiesta. But not in the S80. Thankfully a passer-by tells me.

During our time together the S80 travels to Mevagissey, down the narrowest roads I have ever encountered and tackles frustrating double roundabouts, which are a common occurrence throughout Cornwall – and from my observations incredibly easy for many pre-occupied motorists to misjudge.

"Overall this stylish, supremely luxurious vehicle, with its fair share of chrome, does score highly with me. Returning 44mpg results in more than 600 miles from the 70-litre tank.

It has to be said that during the test the S80 has improved my patience too, so perhaps those safety features that annoyed me so much have helped after all.

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CENTURIONS ENJOY A NICE CLEAN SWEEP

SULLY Centurions Cricket Club enjoyed a clean sweep of victories for the First, Second and Third XIs on Saturday – but spare a thought for the Fourth XI, who missed out on action yet again as their opponents (Croesyceiliog Fourth XI) have dropped out of the league.

Sully's First XI travelled to Usk and ran out winners by 33 runs, but not without one or two anxious moments along the way.

For the second week running, Mike O'Shea had a good game with both bat and ball, starting with an opening partnership of 81 with Ryan Sylvester, when he was bowled by James for 40.

Ryan and Lloyd Smith then took the score along to 98 when James caught Smith off the bowling of Wilcox for 10.

A third wicket stand of 41 between Sylvester and Charlie Lowen ended when Ryan was stumped by Clayton off the bowling of that man James for a very good 66. Lowen became James' third victim when he had him caught by McGeer for a knock of 23.

After Adam Shantry and Richard Ready (10) took the score along to 175 there followed a clatter of wickets, with five going for just 12 runs, and Centurions were suddenly 186 for 9 – with three of the wickets being the run outs of Jamie Sylvester, Gareth Davies and Tom Evison.

Adam Shantry and Tom Maynard got Centurions to the 200 mark, but Tom was bowled for three and Shantry was left unbeaten on 31 at the end. James and Wilcox ended with three wickets each, with one for Warwick.

The Usk reply had reached 29 when Tamplin (nine) was bowled by Maynard. Portz and Clayton had shared a second wicket stand of 38 when O'Shea had Portz LBW for 27.

The next four wickets fell for just four runs, with three wickets claimed by O'Shea and one for Evison. At 71/6 the game had turned completely on its head and Centurions could sense that a victory was definitely there for the taking.

However, it wasn't as straightforward as that as Usk mounted a counter attack. McGeer (44) and Robinson (23 not out) put on 48 for the ninth wicket, but after McGeer went to a Dan Rowe catch off Jamie Sylvester's bowling, the last wicket came pretty soon afterwards and Usk finished on 167 in the 48th over.

Mike O'Shea ended with five wickets for 19, with Tom Evison (2-23) Tom Maynard (2-32) and Jamie Sylvester (1-28) all playing their part in the victory. This, along with Cardiff's defeat, increases Centurions' lead at the top of the table to seven points, with four matches remaining.

Usk 167 all out, Sully 200 all out.

EXPERIENCE WINS IT FOR CENTURIONS

THE Second XI won this clash with Usk at Sully with a team showing the usual mixture of youth and experience.

It was definitely a day for the older contingent as Terry Williams and David Eskins used all of their experience to help Centurions to a comfortable win.

After winning the toss, Centurions batted first and had reached 29 when Shae Ellis was bowled by Thapan for 16. Five runs later, Roger Clitheroe fell to Rees for 13. Ben Callow (15) and Cameron Sleeth (three) shared a 19-run partnership when Centurions suffered a major setback.

First Sleeth, then Callow, and finally skipper Matthew Thomas (0), all fell with the score on 53 to leave Sully with their backs against the wall.

Five wickets down at the half-way stage, Eskins and Lloyd Bruce took the score along to 81 when Bruce was lbw to Smith for 10. A 28-run partnership between Eskins and Tom Edwards took the score past 100, but when Tom was caught behind for four, Centurions were looking for some inspiration on 109 for 8.

This duly came in the form of a century partnership between Eskins and Owain Sullivan. Eskins went on to hit a wonderful 86, which included no less than 14 boundaries, before Thapan finally had him caught with the score on 209 for 9.

With time running out, the tail end tried for some quick runs, but Laurence O'Sullivan went for seven and Terry Williams was run out for two to leave Sullivan on 20 not out in a total of 218. Thapay (3-33) and Rees (2-28) were the visitors' main wicket takers.

After tea, Centurions began making inroads straight away when Thomas bowled Lewis for eight in the second over with the score on 12.

However, there then followed a 45-run partnership between Aswani and Dhareula until Aswani was the victim of a fine catch from Sullivan off the bowling of Williams for 24.

As in the Sully innings three wickets fell in the 50s and soon Usk were reeling on 58 for 4 after only 12 overs, with Lloyd Bruce bagging two wickets.

Another two wickets fell with the score on 71 and a further two when it reached 89, and it looked like Usk would struggle to reach 100.

But a stand of 36 for the ninth wicket between Steadman (16) and Graveson, who went on to score an unbeaten half century, gave the score some respectability.

By the time last batsman Smith had been trapped LBW by Ellis the score had moved on to 148. Terry Williams took 4 for 39 and Lloyd Bruce got 3 for 39, with a wicket each for Matthew Thomas, Ben Callow and Shae Ellis, as Centurions won by 70 runs.

Sully 218 all out, Usk 148 all out

ANOTHER GOOD WIN GIVES HOPE AT THE TOP

CENTURIONS' Third XI had another good day with this convincing victory over Croesyciliog Woodlands at Wenvoe.

Batting first, Sully were 17 for 3 at one stage and things were looking decidely shaky. But Sean Davies, with a marvellous 76, and Pavel (58) had other ideas as they reached a very respectable 218 all out after the 45 overs.

The Croesyceiliog reply never really got going as Sully's bowlers tightened the screw. Nick Jones, with 5 for 10, and Ricky Griffett (3-9) did most of the damage, supported by some good work in the field.

The visitors only lasted 27 overs before they were all out for jut 62. Only Mawby, who reached 30, showed any resistance.

The maximum points earned from this win will have helped to consolidate Centurions' position in the top three, and the promotion places are looking within reach.

Sully 218 all out, Croesyceiliog Woodlands 62 all out.

MF

Another poor result for Cadoxton bowlers

CADOXTON continued their poor season with another home defeat, against Rumney, which brings the threat of relegation ever closer.

Howard Craven's four started their match badly, with only one shot scored during the first nine ends, leaving them trailing 1-14. A '4' on the next end began a spirited recovery, which halved the deficit, but the difference was too much to make up before the end.

During the opening 10 ends, Kevin Chedgzoy's four were also having a torrid time. They scored two singles whilst conceding 19 shots. A partial recovery brought them seven winning ends whilst losing three singles during the next 10 ends, but a '3' against closed the game.

The most disappointing result came on Don Kuhnell's rink. After maintaining control for most of the game and building a 19-13 advantage, the opposition were allowed to win the last four ends to tie the scores.

Derek Brook had a player drop out from his rink at short notice, so the reserve from the 'A' side, David Fanning, took his place. A creditable performance assisted the rink to overcome a '5' scored against on the second end.

This deficit was wiped out with the scores level at 6-6, on five ends. The advantage changed hands for each of the next five ends, in a closely contested period. But two '3's against, while two singles were scored, opened up a four-shot gap. Again, this was reduced to just one, but two '2's finalised the match in the visitors' favour.

Scores: P Ellis, W Vaughan, W Eadie, H Craven 17-24; D Tuck, D Fanning, L Davies, D Brook 17-22; H Hellyar, L Cundliffe, G Brown, D Kuhnell 19-19; T Bishop, L Little, J Davies, K Chedgzoy 14-25. Final score: 67-90.

CADOXTON 'A' V YNYSYBWL – ML6

CADOXTON'S trip to Ynysybwl brought a slow start from all rinks. After three ends they trailed by 13 shots across the board.

Graham Garland's rink was the first to score. A run of six singles was started on the third end to bring the scores level, after conceding six shots in the first two. However, only three further singles were added during the next 10 ends, with 14 scored by the opposition. A '3' each on the final ends completed the match.

John Stewart took a bit longer to start making any progress on his rink after trailing 8-1 after six ends. A partial recovery brought six shots with three against over the next five ends. At this stage the visitors took over the control of the game and took the advantage to 23-15 on the penultimate end. A '5' against on the last upset the overall aggregate.

Gordon Davies trailed on his rink by 6-1, before a '6' on the next brought them back into the game. This one-shot advantage was increased as the game continued to 11 shots going into the final end. As in the previous rink a '6' against on the last spoilt the aggregate, although the rink advantage was held.

Roy Harding's four trailed 4-2 before a '4' obtained the lead. However, only a '2' was scored in the next six ends whilst the opposition reached 13. They were held on this score for four ends whilst singles were scored, but a '3' aided the home side in holding out for an overall win.

Scores: G Solomon, I Heppenstall, D Evans, G Davies 25-20; G Powell, L Adams, M Curtis, R Harding 14-19; S Clements, R Knight, M Mathews, J Stewart 23-20; S Clarke, E Heppenstall, R Cole, G Garland 12-23. Final score: 74-82.

CADOXTON V DINAS POWIS – MUNRO CUP

CADOXTON turned up at Dinas Powis on a wonderful evening for bowls, on a good green and good company. However, the performance did not match the occasion and they were well beaten.

Len Davies had youngster Ewan Heppenstall, making his Munro Cup debut, on his rink against opposing skip Alan Jones. They held the lead throughout in a close game, until the penultimate end when the home side took a one-shot advantage, but a single on the final end tied the scores.

Howard Craven came up against a strong rink, which included David Vowles, and skipped by Gerry White. Although the visitors scored two '2's in the early stages the home side then took control of the match and lost three more singles during the remainder of the game.

John Stewart scored on two of the first three ends for a score of 4-1 against John Porter's rink. The visitors' scoring was restricted to just two more singles during the last seven ends.

Don Kuhnell met opposing skip Neil Giles on his rink, and managed to win half of the ends, but was restricted mainly to last-bowl singles, whilst the home side collected, '2's and '3's.

Scores: G Powell, B Knight, M Mathews, H Craven 7-25 G Leach, L Cullen, D Vowles, G White; J Stacey, I Heppenstall, G Solomon, D Kuhnell 12-22 D James, R Fear, M Seaford, N Giles; S Clarke, E Heppenstall, D Evans, L Davies 13-13 C Scott, H Lamont, T Hurcom, A Jones; G Davies, D Fanning, J Sugden, J Stewart 9-21 P Henley, J Coles, D Ireland, J Porter.

Final score: 41-81.

DK

Sunshine at last at Brynhill

Captain Glenn Taylor and Steve Wright.

Captain Glenn Taylor with overall winner, Wayne Adams.

FINALLY, after a very wet golfing season, the sun managed to put in an appearance at the captain's prize weekend at Brynhill Golf Club recently.

On Sunday, the patio was filled with players basking in the sun, some telling tales of misery and woe of the shots that went astray, while other players were telling their tales of birdies and pars.

Mr Glenn Taylor, the club captain, thanked all the players for their patience during a very difficult year (weather wise) and also for their support during his special weekend during which more than 300 members took part.

He also praised Iain Grant and his staff for their hard work in producing a course of such excellent standard.

The clubhouse was full on Sunday evening for the captain's presentation, the results being: *Saturday best gross, Lee Price; Saturday best nett, Dai Griffiths; Sunday best gross, Huw Gapper; Sunday best nett, Steve Wright; Overall best gross, Scott Bowman; Overall best nett, Wayne Adams.*

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